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# SUNBURY on the MEDWAY

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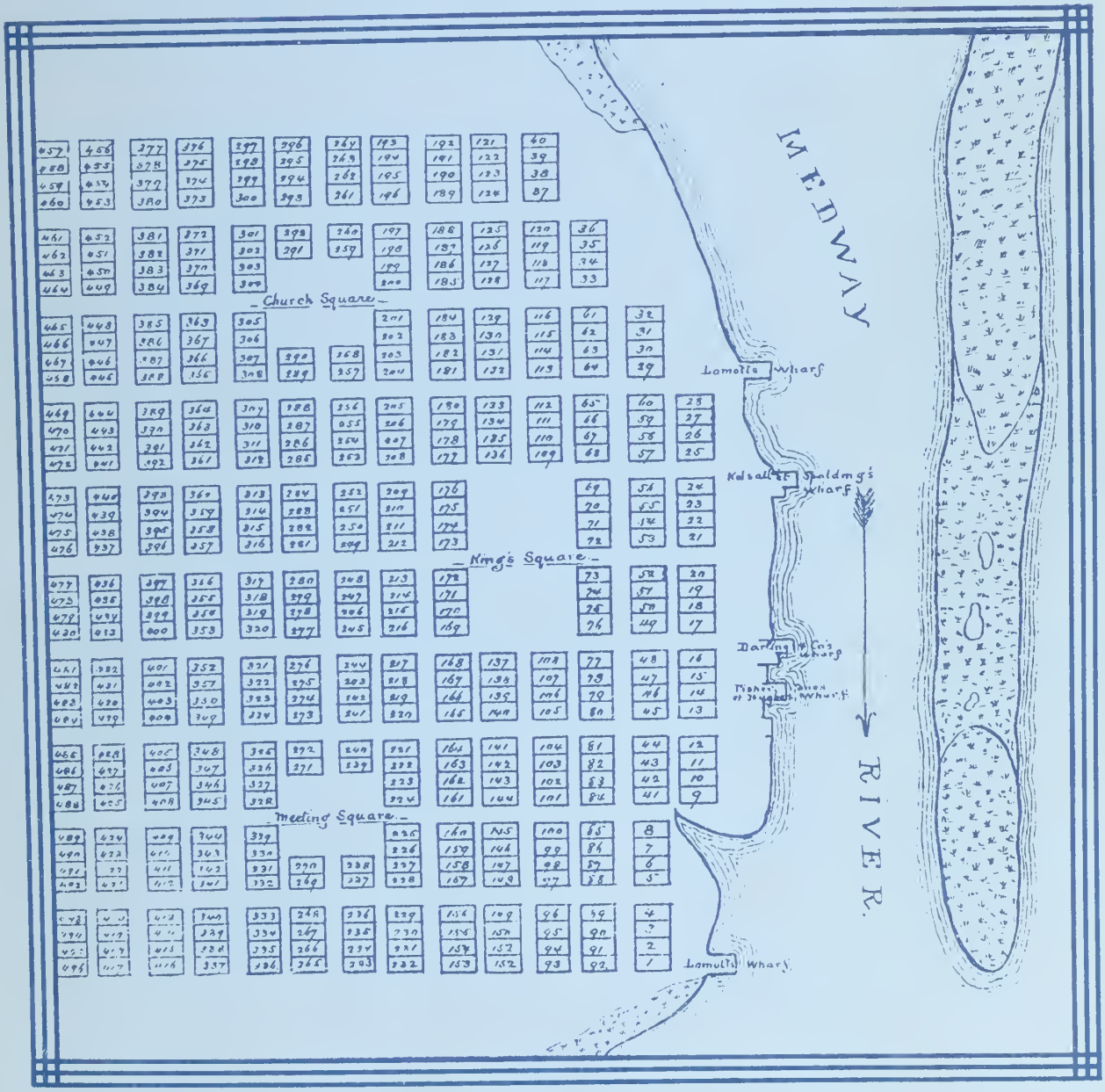

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# SUNBURY ON THE MEDWAY

## A Selective History of the Town, Inhabitants, and Fortifications

by

John McKay Sheftall

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State of Georgia
Department of Natural Resources
Office of Planning and Research
Historic Preservation Section

1977

*View of Sunbury Cemetery, 1976*
*(Photograph by David J. Kaminsky)*

In its palmy days, Sunbury was a beautiful village with its snow-white houses, green blinds, and a red roof here and there. From the fort to the point was a carpet of luxuriant Bermuda grass shaded with ornamental trees on either side of its wide avenues. Today it is a cotton field with one or two dilapidated buildings.

- Dr. James Holmes
The Darien Timber Gazette
December 21, 1877

DEDICATED

TO

CHARLES COLCOCK JONES, JR.
(1831-1893)

. . . whose untiring efforts to salvage, record, and preserve Georgia's documentary and oral history have left a continuing challenge for all succeeding Georgia historians. His writings on Sunbury and the Midway community have been an inspiration and a guide to the present author.

*Illustration 1.*
*Map of Georgia showing the location of Sunbury, 1976*

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# PREFACE

The intriguing story of Georgia's coastal town of Sunbury is familiar to many native Georgians. This famed "dead" town also seems to be a favorite of past and present historians, who have recounted parts of its unique birth, life, and death in numerous articles and publications. Hugh McCall's 1811 volume of the History of Georgia contains the first detailed mention of the town in a historical account. Following the War Between the States and the Reconstruction period, several articles on the history of Sunbury appeared in the Macon Telegraph and the Hinesville Gazette. No attempt was made to record a full narrative of this historic spot, however, until 1878, when the great Georgia historian, Charles C. Jones, Jr., published Dead Towns of Georgia, in which he devoted 83 pages to Sunbury.

Subsequent to this masterful account, which must still be regarded as the definitive work on Sunbury, several more histories of the town were written. One such history was contained within an unpublished history of Liberty County by James A. LeConte, late of Atlanta, and yet another was written and published by Paul McIlvaine of Hendersonville, N.C., in 1971. Although these later histories present additional information and previously unpublished facts in the history of Sunbury, they do not supersede the account by Jones in either historical accuracy or human interest.

On June 14, 1968, the State of Georgia acquired the "Fort Morris" tract from the Board of Commissioners of Roads and Revenues of Liberty County. The State placed this property, which lies just south of the site of

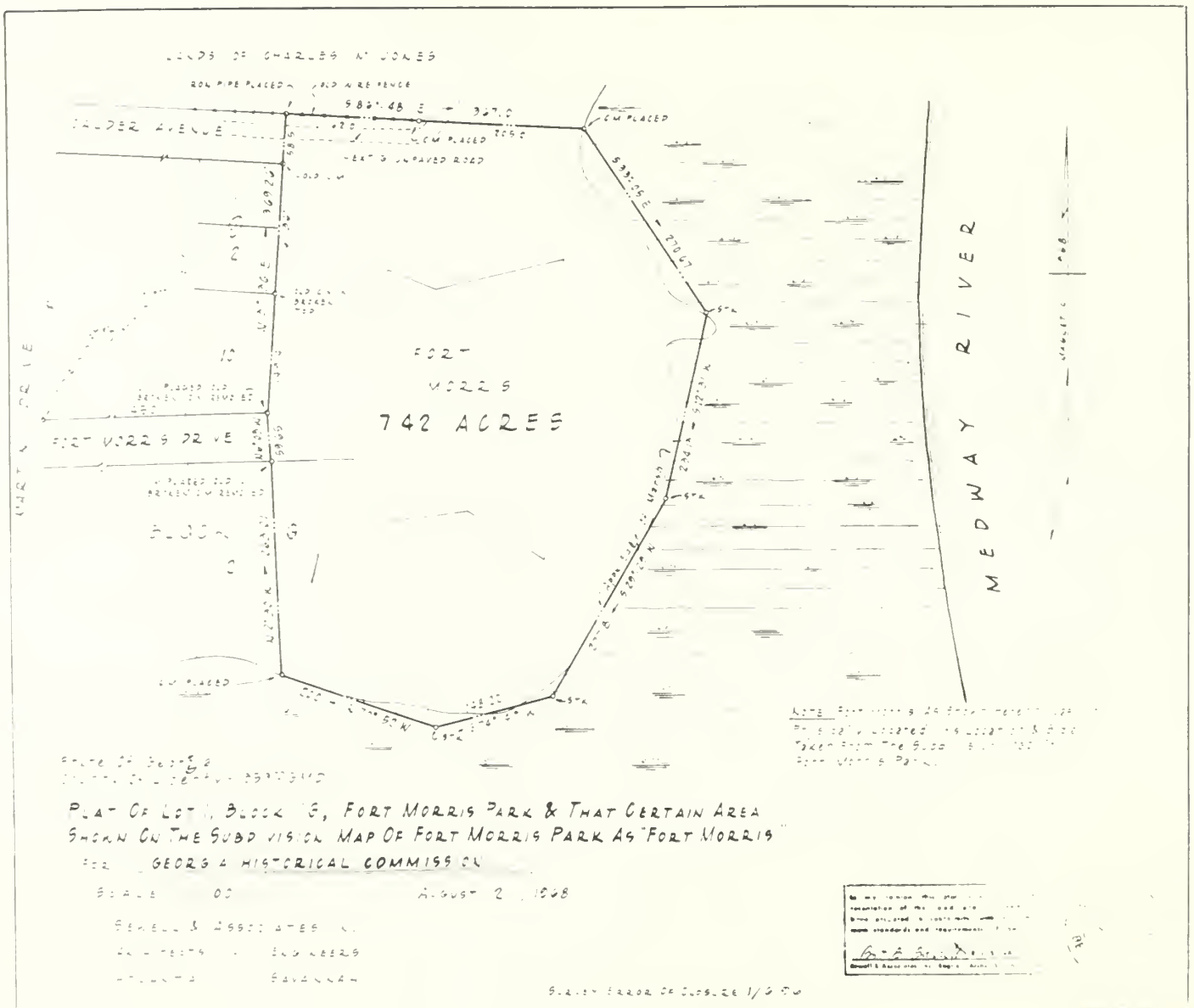
Sunbury, in the hands of the Georgia Historical Commission.[1] Since the latter part of the 19th Century, many have believed that the salient earthworks on this tract are the remains of Sunbury's Revolutionary Fort Morris, but when staff members of the Georgia Historical Commission (merged in 1973 into the Department of Natural Resources) began to proceed with the development of the tract into a historic site, conflicting evidence gradually began to surface.

In order to investigate the authenticity of the fort's alleged Revolutionary War construction, an employee of the Department of Natural Resources, David T. Agnew, was assigned the job of collecting information concerning the fort's history. In 1975, Agnew submitted to the Department his preliminary report, in which he concluded from excellent documentary evidence that the earthworks purported to have been built by American Patriots in 1776 were actually constructed in 1814 by the citizens of Liberty County, Georgia.[2] The Department of Natural Resources desired more information regarding the town of Sunbury and its military history to aid in the interpretation of the site for the public, and the Department consequently contracted with the present author to continue the search.

Using Agnew's work as a foundation, the author has centered his research around Sunbury's participation in the Revolution, the War of 1812, and the War Between the States, and has found additional material which concerns the economic, political, and social spheres of daily life throughout the town's existence. The following pages represent a culmination of the author's research and are written in an attempt to correct, clarify, and enlarge the previously written histories of Sunbury on the Medway. The author is keenly aware of the incomplete nature of this report, and it is

sincerely hoped that the many gaps in this and other histories concerning the town of Sunbury will some day be filled by the research of future historians.

- John M. Sheftall
Macon, Georgia
June, 1977


LANDS OF CHARLES N. JONES
ROLLED PIPE PLACED
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WEST 9' UNPAVED ROAD
OLD CM
S 35° 05' E 2067
FORT MORRIS
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PLAT OF LOT 1, BLOCK 16, FORT MORRIS PARK & THAT CERTAIN AREA SHOWN ON THE SUBDIVISION MAP OF FORT MORRIS PARK AS "FORT MORRIS"
FOR GEORGIA HISTORICAL COMMISSION
SCALE 00 AUGUST 2, 1968
GENELL & ASSOCIATES
ENGINEERS
SAVANNAH

*Illustration 2.*
*Plat of "Fort Morris Park,"*
*owned by the Georgia Historical Commission, 1968*

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During the author's relatively brief period of research on Sunbury, he has been aided and encouraged by a large number of individuals and would like to take this opportunity to express to them collectively his gratitude and sincere appreciation. Foremost among those without whose help this research could not have been completed are the author's parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Lowe Sheftall of Macon, Ga.; his cousins and good friends, Mr. and Mrs. Richard LeConte Anderson of Macon; and his cousin and fellow researcher, Catherine Stewart Jones of Macon. Additional persons who contributed significantly to the research are: David T. Agnew, John Bonner, Edwin Bridges, Mrs. Pat Bryant, Mike Christensen, Robert S. Davis, Anthony Dees, Roger Durham, Mr. and Mrs. William Geeslin, Richard B. Harwell, Mrs. Lilla M. Hawes, Cathy McLendon, Mr. and Mrs. William H. Rosier, William Lowe Sheftall, Jr., Gordon B. Smith, Mrs. Susan B. Tate, Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., and Robert Willingham, Jr.

The writer was most fortunate to have had the privilege of visiting a number of manuscript repositories in order to examine documents pertaining to Sunbury. Almost without exception, the various employees of these institutions greatly aided in these endeavors. For their assistance in locating records and in many cases for displaying genuine interest in the research, thanks are extended to the staff personnel at the following libraries: the Genealogical and Historical Room, Washington Memorial Library, Macon, Ga.; Georgia Department of Archives and History, Atlanta, Ga.; Surveyor General Department, Atlanta, Ga.; Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Ga.; Drafting Unit, Site Planning Section,

Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Ga.; Emory University Library, Atlanta; Georgia Historical Society, Savannah, Ga.; Liberty County Clerk's Office and Probate Court, Hinesville, Ga.; Special Collections, University of Georgia Library, Athens, Ga.; South Carolina Historical Society, Charleston, S.C.: South Carolina Archives, Columbia, S.C.; South Caroliniana Library, University of South Carolina, Columbia, S.C.; Manuscript Department, William R. Perkins Library, Duke University, Durham, N.C.; Southern Historical Collection, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, N.C.; Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.; National Archives, Washington, D.C.; and the Pennsylvania Historical Society, Philadelphia, Pa.

# SECTION I

## EXCERPTS FROM SUNBURY'S HISTORY

Chapter 1

"A SEA-PORT TOWN, BEAUTIFULLY SITUATED ON THE MAIN"
1747 - 1774

Halfway between the present cities of Savannah and Darien and sheltered from the caprices of the Atlantic Ocean by the golden islands of Saint Catherines and Ossabaw lies a wide sound. Into this sound flow the sluggish waters of three rivers: the Bear, the Medway, and the North Newport. The widest of these rivers, the Medway, may be followed upstream through spacious salt marsh for approximately eight miles before a bend in the river and a thin, marshy island temporarily interrupt the Medway's relatively straight course. A high bluff, closely mimicking the river's gradual bend, lies along the western bank of the Medway just opposite the island. For over 200 years, the inhabitants of this area -- politicians, laborers, craftsmen, and slaves -- have called this bluff Sunbury. Although today's casual visitor will notice only a few modern houses enshrouded by clusters of pine and oak, this once-bustling town and the lives of those who called it home have had a tremendous impact on the history of our state.

The Georgia Colonial government enacted a law on March 7, 1775, which proclaimed the lands between the Medway and North Newport rivers as the Midway District and appointed surveyers to lay out highways for the district.[3] Fewer than seven years prior to the passage of this law, Midway District had been virtually uninhabited by white settlers, but beginning in 1747 and continuing for several years thereafter, a number of colonists petitioned the president of Georgia for land along the Medway and North Newport rivers. Many of these petitioners subsequently received grants and moved with their families into the fertile, though swampy, district.

One of these early settlers, Captain Mark Carr (later promoted to colonel), formerly resided on spacious grants on the Turtle River near Frederica but decided to move because of dangerous exposure to the Indians in that area.[4] He had come to the colony sometime before 1739 as a soldier in Oglethorpe's regiment, but in 1747 his intelligence and integrity earned for him an appointment to serve as judge of the Georgia Court of Admiralty.[5] On August 20, 1748, Carr petitioned the president of Georgia for 1,000 acres on the Medway River -- 500 acres for himself and 500 for his son Thomas.[6] The town of Sunbury was later to be laid out within the elder Carr's 500-acre tract.

On September 22, 1748, Middleton Evans, "having been settled upwards of a Year" on lands south of those granted Carr and having made "considerable Improvements," petitioned the president for a grant similar to Carr's and received confirmation.[7] In like fashion, the president issued grants to Captain Seth Place, Audley Maxwell, Alexander Heron, Captain Patrick Sutherland, Kenneth Baillie, Alexander Baillie, Isaac Lines, and William Hester for nearby lands on the Medway.[8] Also, John Mullryne of South Carolina, "desirous of becoming a Planter in the Colony," received a grant for 500 acres lying between the grants of Carr and Evans.[9]

Surprisingly, Captain Carr soon became dissatisfied with his two grants along the Medway and, thinking himself not fairly compensated by the colony's authorities for his previous losses to the Indians, laid his case before the president's board of assistants:

> Gentlemen
> In the beginning of the Year 1739 Genll Oglethorpe put me in possession of Five Hundred Acres of land on the Main to the South of Frederica call'd the Hermitage, and in the Year following a Tract of the like Quantity to my second son Thomas call'd Carrsfield, on both of which I made very considerable Improvements at a large Expence [sic], but in the Year 1740 while I was in Virginia on His Majesty's Service my whole Improvements with my

Stock was destroyed by the Spanish Indians and several of my People cutt [sic] off, and by a moderate computation my Loss was Seven Hund and Fifty Pds. Soon after my return from Virginia, the Genll not thinking me safe there, granted me an Island to the South of my former Settlement wch I call'd Blyth, wherein I likewise built two Brick houses, with several Out Houses, as well as made very large Improvements in Cultivation, but by the withdrawing of the Regimt these Improvements not only became invaluable, but I was exposed and it became dangerous, for me and my Servants to remain upon it, and consequently my Money and Time was in a great Measure sunk.

This obliged me to remove into a less exposed Neighbourhood & I was advised to fix on Midway River where you was pleased to grant my son Thomas Five hundred Acres of Land & also another Tract of the like Quantity to me which was granted to, but resigned by Charles Ratcliff.

On these lands, I have made larger Improvements than any Person in the Neighbourhood, but to my great disappointment two thirds (as the Surveyor can inform you) proves unfit for any Manner of Cultivation and must soon want Land to Plant, unless I can gett [sic] an Addition.

Therefore I request you will grant my son William who is now near twenty one Years of age, five hundred Acres of Land on the North side of Newport River about four Miles So: West on the same Neck where I am settled and likewise that you would allow me to exchange the Tract of Land laid out for Lieut Archibald Don on Midway River wch I have made appear to you I purchased from him, for the like Quantity on Newport River adjoining the same.

Gentlemen as I presume that no Person that ever was in Georgia has given better proof of their Zeale [sic] and Industry to improve the Colony than I have done I need not assure you that I shall continue in it, and your obliging me with my request, I hope will enable me to retrieve the uncommon Losses I have sustained, which has been much more than I can mention or chooses [sic] to trouble you with, as it's a trueth [sic] well known to you -- I am Gentlemen Your very obedt Humbl Servt

Mark Carr

Savannah May ye 12th 1752

P.S. I lay no Claim to the Lands formerly granted to me or my Son at the Hermitage, Carrsfield or Blyth, wch I resign (to remove to where I have request) notwithstanding my Improvements thereon.[10]

The board graciously responded by not only granting 500 acres to young William Carr, but also allowing the older Carr to exchange the 500 acres he

purchased from Lieutenant Don for a tract adjoining his son's. Both of these grants lay along the North Newport River, south of the present site of Sunbury.[11]

Between 1752 and 1754, a new group of settlers began arriving and taking up land grants along the neck of land between the Medway and North Newport rivers. Unlike the earlier Medway settlers who came to plant, trade, and extend their business interests, this second group of immigrants was primarily motivated by a desire to establish a community of Congregationalists. Members of this religious faith, known as Protestant Dissenters by their Georgia neighbors, came from settlements around Dorchester, S.C., where their ancestors had originally located ca. 1695. Dorchester had become increasingly populated with Anglican families in the years following, producing both a land shortage and competition for religious domination. The extensive, unsettled lands lying inland from the Medway and Newport rivers became the new home and spiritual haven for the members of this religious faith.[12]

For their "Meeting house or place of publick Worship," the Congregationalists chose a two-acre tract of land at the junction of the Fort Barrington Road (leading from Savannah to Fort Barrington on the Altamaha River) with the Sunbury Road (connecting the present site of Sunbury on the Medway River with the Fort Barrington Road).[13] This church and the community of Congregationalists who inhabited the surrounding district became known as "Midway" (sometimes spelled "Medway" to correspond with the nearby river). Although British soldiers burned the Midway Church in 1778, the structure erected in 1792 remains today on the same site as the original structure.

By 1756, the various settlers of Midway District were in need of a focal marketplace for their goods and a community forum for their political ideas. Without a central town, they had no outlet for their crops, and the nearby Georgia merchants had no center for distribution in the Midway District. Captain Mark Carr apparently realized the potential value of his bluff along the Medway and as early as 1757 began selling lots to mercantile firms.[14] On April 5 of that year, during the administration of Georgia's second royal governor, Henry Ellis, Carr received an official grant from King George II for his 500 acres on the Medway River, "bounded west by Thomas Carr, east by River Medway, south by vacant land, and on other sides by river's marshes."[15] This grant served to confirm Carr's original grant from the president and assistants of Georgia and also gave him the legal power to further convey his tract for use as a town.

The present site of Sunbury was called by that name as early as July of 1757, having been known as Captain Carr's Bluff for at least one year prior to that date. On June 20, 1758, probably in light of the increasing number of lot owners along his bluff, Mark Carr firmly established a civil organization for the town of Sunbury with the following release of conveyance:

> Release of the Town and Common of Sunbury.
> This Indenture made the twentieth Day of June in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and fifty eight, Between MARK CARR of Midway in the Province of Georgia Esquire of the one Part, and JAMES MAXWELL, KENNETH BAILLIE, JOHN ELLIOTT, GREY ELLIOTT and JOHN STEVENS, all of Midway aforesaid Esquires of the other Part. Whereas the said MARK CARR is seized and possessed to him and his Heirs of a Tract of five hundred Acres of Land at Midway aforesaid, Part whereof containing by Measure about three hundred Acres; by Reason of its commodious and advantagious [sic] Situation, on the River of Midway, is designed, appropriated and laid out into a Town to be called by the Name of Sunbury, and Common for the Use and Benefit of the several Persons, now, or hereafter, to be, Inhabitants for the said Town by the Purchase of Lots therein, their several and respective Heirs and Assigns. NOW THIS INDENTURE

WITNESSETH that for the more effectually and absolutely granting, conveying and assuring the aforesaid Portion of Land to and for the Uses and Purposes abovesaid, ... He the said MARK CARR hath granted, bargained, ... unto the said JAMES MAXWELL, KENNETH BAILLIE, JOHN ELLIOTT, GREY ELLIOTT and JOHN STEVENS ... all that Portion or Parcel of Land containing by Measure about three hundred Acres, as aforesaid laid out and appropriated for a Town by the Name of Sunbury, together with the Land laid out for a Common to said Town, containing one hundred Acres, as the same Town and Common are particularly delineated and described, and the Lots of the said Town, set off, admeasured and numbered in the Plan thereof, to these Presents annexed, ... upon further Trust and Confidence that they [the trustees] ... shall, dispose of, grant, sell and convey, To and for the Behoof and Benefit of the said MARK CARR his Heirs or Assigns, All, or any of the said Lots in the Town, each Lot seventy Feet in Front and one hundred and thirty Feet in Depth, to the several Persons, desirous to become Purchasers of the same, to the Use of them, their Heirs and Assigns at the Rates herein after mentioned, (That is to say) to any Person or Persons, desirous to purchase any of the said Lots, from Number One to Number forty inclusive, for the Price or Sum of Six Pounds Sterling each Lot, ... Lots from Number forty one to one hundred and Ninety two inclusive, for the Price or Sum of four Pounds Sterling each Lot, ... Lots from Number one hundred and ninety three, to Number three hundred and thirty six - inclusive at the Price or Sum of three Pounds Sterling each Lot, ... Lots from Number three hundred and thirty seven to Number four hundred and ninety six inclusive, for the Price or Sum of two Pounds Sterling each Lot, ... they the said Purchasers and every one of them shall and will put and build on each front Lot so purchased within one Year from the Day of the Purchase made, an House of at least thirty two Feet long and eighteen Feet wide covered with Cypress Shingles, floored with Boards, and a brick, Stone or lime Chimney to it under the Penalty, of forfeiting and Paying, for every Month such Purchaser shall neglect building on his said Lot, ... they [the purchasers of front lots] will not nor any of them will build, or cause to be built any Stores or Ware Houses under the said Hill opposite such their several Lots, that shall exceed the Height of fourteen Feet from the Level of the high Water Mark, Neither shall they or any of them so becoming Purchasers as aforesaid, dig up, convert, or enclose the Ground on the Hill, or under the same, to or for any manner of Cultivation whatsoever.... And Whereas two of the five Trustees herein before mentioned are nominated and chosen by the said MARK CARR, and the other three by the several Persons already become Purchasers of Lots in the said Town; NOW These Presents Witnesseth, and it is mutually agreed, by and between the said MARK CARR, and such Purchasers, that in Case of the Death, Removal out of the Province, or Refusal to act, of any of them the said Trustees, such vacancy shall be filled up and supplied by another to be nominated either by him the said MARK CARR, or the Purchasers of Lots in like Manner, ...

> N.B. Be it remembered that on and before the Sealing of these Presents it is hereby declared between the said MARK CARR and the Commissioners appointed in the same that whereas he the said MARK CARR hath now several Buildings on the Township of Sunbury, if any of the said Buildings should happen to be in a Lot chosen or taken up by any Person whatsoever that the Person who shall have taken or chosen such Lot, shall have one of equal Value with it in Lieu thereof, unless they and the said MARK CARR should otherways agree....[16] [For more information on the early history of Sunbury's trustees and lots, see Section II of this report.]

According to Captain Hugh McCall's History of Georgia, Sunbury grew rapidly after its organization into a town and rose quickly in commerical importance:

> Emigrants came from different quarters to this healthy maritime port, particularly from Bermuda: about seventy came from that island, but unfortunately for them and the reputation of the town, a mortal epidemic broke out, and carried off about fifty of their number the first year· it is highly probable they brought the seeds of the disease with them. Of the remainder, as many as were able, returned to their native country. This circumstance however, did not very much retard the growing state of this eligible spot: a lucrative trade was carried on with various parts of the West Indies, in lumber, rice, indigo, corn, &c.[17]

The unhealthy climtate of the hot and humid Sunbury site was not the only problem that faced the settlers of the town and surrounding plantations. On September 16, 1756, the secretary for Midway Congregational Church recorded the following in the society's minute book:

> A letter came to us from the Honorable Jonathan Brian, Esq'r, one of his majesties [sic] Council for this Collony [sic], on account of some Creek Indians being on Great Hogeechee [Ogeechee] River, in quarrel about some creatures, which the Indians had taken from them; that the Indians were very much irritated -- declared they must have blood for blood, and that all means used to pacify them, seemed to no purpose, and advising us with all expedition to build a Fort for our safety, we hear that about Savannah and in the northern parts of the Collony, people are very much alarmed by this news, which affected us in the same manner; and consultations were immediately had about the building, and place for a Fort, and it was determined by a majority that it

> should be at Capt. Mark Carr's, about seven or eight miles distance from the nearest of the settlements of this Society; which was accordingly begun on the 20th Sep. 1756.[18]

Due to the threat of a French privateer on July 11 of the next year, the Midway inhabitants were once again "called down this day to Sunbury, where [they] raised a couple of Batteries and made carriages for eight small Cannon, which were at the place."[19] On the morning of July 16, the Midway residents "were alarmed, by the fire of cannon at Sunbury, whither [they] repaired, and a boat went out, but could discover nothing."[20] The inland settlers were again alarmed on July 25, but the excitement turned out to have been caused by thunder rather than by the firing of the Sunbury cannon.

The Georgia authorities, under the leadership of Governor Ellis, also became apprehensive concerning the "exposed & defenceless State of this Province," and by an act signed on July 19, 1757, they made provision for five log forts to be erected in various parts of Georgia "as may contribute in this Time of Alarm and Danger to the Safety of the Inhabitants by Affording them Places of Retreat upon any sudden Emergency."[21] One of these forts was designated to be built in the Midway District, under the leadership of nine commissioners: Mark Carr, Grey Elliott, Audley Maxwell, John Stevens, John Stewart, Sr., John Winn, John Lupton, John Graves, and Captain Kenneth Baillie.[22]

In May of 1758, Governor Ellis decided to check the situation on Georgia's southern frontier himself. He first toured the Ogeechee River, where he "saw the Fort that had lately been raised there in consequence of the Resolution of the Assembly of last year." The governor described it as being "of a quadrangular figure, each side measuring 100 yards constructed with thick logs set upright 14 feet long 5 whereof are sunk in the earth &

has 4 little Bastions pierced for small & great Guns which would make it very defencible."[23] Ellis traveled next to Midway, where he "found the Inhabitants had inclosed their Church in the same manner & erected a Battery of 8 Guns at Sunbury in a very proper situation for defending the River."[24]

The hastily constructed wooden forts soon fell into disrepair and decay, forcing the Georgia Legislature (which consisted of an upper and lower house) to act. On April 24, 1760, it appropriated additional funds to rebuild the five structures in order to protect the colonists from the "Hostilities lately commenced by the Cherokee Indians against his Majesty's Subjects."[25] A sum of £25 was allotted for "the use of the Fort erected at Sunbury and for the use of the Fort erected at Medway."[26]

The Sunbury trustees undoubtedly saw to the immediate repair of the fort in their town, for in a letter which Governor Ellis wrote to the Lords of Trade in London on August 25, 1760, he remarked that "a very good Logg [sic] Fort is built at Sunbury."[27] The Midway settlers, however, were not so quick in repairing their fort; in way of apparent explanation, the Georgia Commons (or lower) House Journal reported on November 20, 1760, that "to put the Fort at Saint Johns in a proper State of Defence, it is requisite that it be provided with two Swivel Gunns [sic] and Carriages for four Cannon and a sufficient Quantity of Ammunition which will require a Sum not less than fifty Pounds."[28] The next day, the Commons House appropriated £120 to complete the fort at Midway and Newport.

In a report on Georgia's fortifications submitted in 1761 to the Lords of Trade by Georgia's third royal governor, James Wright, the Midway Fort, having been styled previously as Fort St. John, was described as follows:

> Fort St. John about 10 Miles back from Sunbury & 29 Miles from Savannah, is a Stockade Fort, about 200 Feet Square; not intended

> to be garrisoned, but occasionally & built only for the protection of the Inhabitants of that part of the Province, in case of Alarms & necessity. This Fort is in bad repair, has usually been garrisoned by 30 of the Rangers but at present they are withdrawn from thence.[29]

The minutes of the governor and his Executive Council for July 28 of that year recommended that "nine Men and a Corporal, of the Rangers, now doing Duty at St. John's Fort, be sent to Sunbury; and the residue be removed to Savannah."[30] Once again, the outpost stockade near or surrounding Midway Congregational Church fell into disrepair. Governor Wright mentioned this fort for the last time in a report to the Lords of Trade in 1766, in which he stated that "Fort St. John [was] evacuated & quite in ruins and now unnecessary."[31]

The year 1762 brought tremendous expansion and improvement to the ever-growing town of Sunbury. On April 22 of that year, the inhabitants of St. John's Parish, which included Sunbury and Midway District, petitioned the governor and Executive Council for legislative recognition of the town, as well as for the establishment of a church and customs house there:

> Mark Carr Esqr being possessed of a Tract of Land on the River Midway in the said Province was induced, from it's [sic] healthy and advantageous Situation, to aline and convey a Part thereof, in small Portions, to the Petitioners, and others of the said Parish desirous of becoming Purchasers, who had accordingly built upon and improved the same That the Petitioners and the other Purchasers as aforesaid were very desirous the same should be established a Town by Authority, under such Regulations, and invested with such Immunities, as might contribute to its Growth, and further setting forth that the Inhabitants of the said Parish who were of the established Church being pretty numerous had, with others, lately subscribed towards building a Place of divine Worship; And the Petitioners understanding that in and by an Act passed by the general Assembly, for stamping imprinting issuing and making Current the Sum of Seven thousand four hundred and ten Pounds Sterling in Paper Bills of Credit, and for applying and sinking the

> same, Encouragement was given, and some Provision made, for erecting Churches in the several Parishes of the Province, the Petitioners were desirous that those of the established Church so intended to be built might be built under the Sanction of that Law And also setting forth that for the general Encouragement of the southern Division of the Province the Petitioners further requested that Midway [Sunbury] might be established a Port of Entry for shipping under the Inspection of proper Officers; which they apprehended would not only prevent Frauds in his Majesty's Customs but be very advantageous and beneficial to the Inhabitants by their Trade being promoted, carried on, and extended in a proper Channel Therefore praying his Excellency to take the Premisses [sic] under Consideration and grant them Aid therein.[32]

The Executive Council and the governor subsequently suggested that the Sunbury citizens pursue their quest for ministerial guidance through their church wardens and vestry, but the governor did authorize the offical establishment of Sunbury as a town and designated it as a port of entry -- a designation which only Sunbury shared with Savannah for many years.

Although the Georgia authorities seemed eager enough to declare Sunbury a port of entry, the Lords of Trade in London did not share the colonists' view that Sunbury should be given this distinction. Governor Wright was forced to justify Sunbury's status time and time again. Writing on October 1, 1762, to the Lords of Trade, Wright explained:

> ... in order to prevent all clandestine Trade & his Majesties [sic] Enemies from being supplied with Provisions & other Considerations, I judged it for His Majesties Service that Sunbury, a very well settled Town 25 miles South in a direct line, but as the Road is made at least 40 Miles from hence, & having an exceeding good Harbour & inlet from the sea, should be made a Port of Entry ....[33]

Two years later, on August 30, 1764, Wright recounted once more:

> ... that Sunbury is a proper place for a Port of Entry, there is at least 80 dwelling Houses in the Town, and three considerable merchants Stores for supplying the Town & Planters in the Neighborhood with all kinds of necessary goods and round it for about 15 Miles is one of the best settled parts of the country, and

> unless officers are there, if Smuggling should be attempted (for wch its [sic] a convenient place) I don't see how it can be prevented.[34]

With the establishment of Sunbury as a port of entry, new concern for the defense of the town was felt by the Commons House in Savannah. On November 11, 1762, Joseph Gibbons made a report before that body on the state of the defense works in St. John's Parish, stating that "fort Saint John is much out of Repair a Space of about seventy feet being fallen down." The gates needed repairing, and the posts were rotten, but the planks of the fort were deemed sound. Gibbons also related that "part of the Stockade fort built at Sunbury at the Time of the late Indian Alarm is fallen down." Four pieces of four-pounder cannon were still on the bay at Sunbury, but these lacked either carriages or platforms. After hearing the full report, the Commons House resolved to send three additional four-pounder cannon to Sunbury, to be mounted there along with the four already on the bay. Also, the legislative body ordered a battery to be immediately erected upon a point of land called Cedar Hammock, located near the mouth of the Medway River. Three six-pounders were to be sent there, along with a lookout and boat.[35]

The Commons House appropriated over £300 in February of 1763 to carry out the resolutions regarding the defense works at Sunbury and Cedar Hammock.[36] Apparently the construction of the batteries commenced rapidly, for they were described in another act signed by the governor on April 7, just two months later, as nearing completion. In order to prevent vessels from entering the port of Sunbury and bringing in contagious diseases, all such vessels "bound for the Port of Sunbury" were to be "Ordered or brought to at some convenient place within the command of the Guns of the Battery now

Erected or Erecting at Medway within the said Province until a Signal be made by the Commanding Officer of the said Battery for such Ship or Vessel to pass...."[37] The battery mentioned was undoubtedly the one to be erected on Cedar Hammock.

If either the battery and lookout on Cedar Hammock or the battery on the bay in Sunbury was completed, it was at best used for only a few years before decaying. Like so many of Georgia's early coastal defense works, they were erected to meet a specific threat or need, and once that need was gone, the hastily-constructed wooden buildings were not long in disintegrating. Such had surely been the fate of the Sunbury battery erected in 1756 and enlarged in 1760 into a "good Logg [sic] Fort" -- both constructions having had the purpose of meeting the threat of Indian depredations. Such had also been the fate of Fort St. John, erected at the same time as the Sunbury battery, as well as the second colonial battery at Sunbury and the battery on Cedar Hammock. The two latter forts were built to protect the Sunbury and Midway settlements from the threat of Spanish privateers, and when that threat died, the defense works soon decayed. In a report on Georgia's fortifications made by Governor Wright to the Lords of Trade on September 14, 1773, he made no mention of Fort St. John, Sunbury, or Cedar Hammock.[38] Their rotted posts and gates had already been forgotten.

In the years following the removal of the Spanish threat from Georgia's coast, the prosperity of Sunbury rose ever higher. Although the town experienced an occasional outburst of smallpox or some other epidemic, the commercial, social, and religious life of the town flourished continuously.[39] On June 2, 1763, the Georgia Gazette, published in Savannah, reported a horse race in Sunbury, in which "Mr. Maxwell's little Chickasaw afforded

excellent sport through every heat, but especially the last, which intitled [sic] him to the prize, there being three to one against him."[40] The prize consisted of a subscription purse of 20 guineas. The following month, the Gazette exhibited a tally of the various goods "Entered for Exportation at the Custom-house, Sunbury," from January 5 until July 5:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Rice, | 1892 barrels | Spars, | 133 |
| Tanned leather, | 1300 sides | Pumps, | 12 |
| Pine Lumber, | 158,526 feet | Tar, | 137 barrels |
| Shingles, | 138,970 | Corn, | 650 bushels |
| Staves, | 38,800 | Cattle, | 10 |

The imports reported for the same period of time were as follows:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Rum, | 6 hogsheads | Biscuit, | 201 barrels |
| Beer, | 16 barrels | Bread, | 64 barrels |
| Cyder [sic], | 20 barrels | Cheese, | 4 hampers |
| Cordials, | 5 barrels | Potatoes, | 200 bushels |
| Apples, | 60 barrels | Chocolate, | 100 lb. |
| Loaf Sugar, | 3 hogsheads | Starch, | 8 kegs |
| Muscovado sugar, | 3 hhds. | Horse collars, | 36 |
| Flour, | 247 barrels | Salt, | 200 bushels[41] |

By 1773, the port of Sunbury boasted packers and inspectors, cullers and inspectors of lumber, a comptroller and collector of country duties, inspectors of hemp, flax, and wheat flour, and inspectors of tanned leather.[42] Inhabitants of the town were exempt from working on the roads in St. John's Parish, but were under obligation to "clear and keep clean the several squares, streets, lanes and common" of Sunbury.[43] Two roads already led from the town -- one constructed in 1755 which joined the Fort Barrington Road 10 miles from Sunbury at Midway Congregational Church, and another, constructed in 1762, which led south from the town to the North Newport Ferry.[44] Yet the citizens of St. John's, St. Phillip's, and St. Andrew's parishes petitioned the Commons House in 1770 for a third road to be

constructed, this one to lead from the town to the Fort Barrington Road and to join that road north of Midway Church near the Ogeechee Ferry. This request, however, was not granted, due to the difficulty which would have been encountered in constructing the road through extremely swampy areas.[45]

Governor Wright claimed in his report to the Lords of Trade in 1773 that during that year, 56 vessels had been entered and cleared at the Customs House in Sunbury.[46] Considering that only 160 vessels had been entered and cleared at Savannah during the same period, this number at Sunbury represented a considerable portion of Georgia's trade. The governor elaborated further, saying that the Georgia province traded principally with Great Britain, "from whence we are Supplyed [sic] with Linnens [sic] and Woolens of all Sorts, Iron ware of all Sorts, Hats, Shoes, Stockings and all Sorts of Apparel, Tea, Paper, Paints and a great variety of other Articles."[47] Blacks were brought directly to Georgia from Africa, but those same boats returned to England laden with deerskins, rice, indigo, and naval stores. Additionally, rum and sugar were imported from the West Indies, to which the Georgians shipped rice, corn, peas, lumber, shingles, cattle, horses, livestock, barreled beef, and pork.

Some families in Sunbury were members of the Midway Congregationalist Church and Society, but many seem to have been associated with the Church of England. According to the minutes of the Midway Church:

> On Monday the Nineteenth of December Anno Domini 1763 Some of the Inhabitants of Sunbury with many of the Country Members of this Church met by appointment at our Meeting House in the Country, in order to make out a Call to the Revd Mr. John Alexander to reside & preach among us.[48]

The Midway Church members also agreed that in case their pastor, the Reverend

John Osgood, should be unable to preach:

> ... then the Revd Mr. Alexander shall preach a part of his time at this place in the Country, and that his Preaching in Town & Country shall be proportioned to the Sallary [sic] paid him from the Members and Inhabitants of each place.[49]

The Reverend Alexander was indeed called by Midway Church, and although his arrival was never recorded in the minutes of that body, his presence in the community is indicated by the record of his marriage in Midway on March 27, 1764, to Hannah Godfrey.[50] Shortly thereafter, Alexander seems to have left Georgia, not returning to Sunbury until August 2, 1766, and then as a missionary for the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts -- a London-based evangelical arm of the Anglican Church![51] He stayed in Sunbury, filling his newly assumed role as Episcopal clergyman until 1767, when he was transferred at his request to Purisburg, S.C.[52]

During June of 1767, the members of Midway Church called a second assistant pastor, James Edmonds, to minister primarily to the congregation's members in Sunbury.[53] The Anglicans there, however, were not so fortunate as to obtain a quick replacement for the Reverend Alexander, and in a petition to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, dated July 2, 1771, 35 members of the Sunbury Episcopal Church claimed:

> That for some years past there has been no Clergymen to Perform devine [sic] service according to the rites and Ceremonies of the Church of England in Sunbury ...
>
> That a great part of the Inhabitants of said Parish are dissenters and that those who Profess the established Religion of the Church of England are not sufficient to maintain a Clergyman. That the sum allowed by the Province for the support of a Clergyman of the Church of England in said Parish is no more than Twenty five pounds Sterling yearly.
>
> That His Excellency, James Wright, Esqr. Governor of said Province, has been pleased at the request of Part of the Inhabitants

of this Parish to appoint the Revd Mr. Timothy Lowten to the Rector of the same that this gentleman has Performed divine service according to the Rites and ceremonies of the Church of England in the Town of Sunbury for upwards of Three months past to the universal satisfaction of the Inhabitants and Parts adjacent.

That a number of Inhabitants have raised a further Sum for the support of Mr. Lowten for one year from the first of April Last but this is not sufficient and at best but Precarious and uncertain. We therefore, Your Petitioners, humbly beseech you will be pleased to appoint the said Mr. Lowten one of your Missionarys [sic] and allow him such a yearly salary as to you shall seem meet, & your Petitioners as in Duty bound shall Pray ...

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| John Simpson | Simon Munro | George Cubbedge |
| R. Kelsall | Samuel Miller | Saml. Richardson |
| Thos. Young | Andrew Darling | George Knowles |
| Sutton Bankes | John Graves | Peter Manley |
| James Hardie | Benj. Sheffield | Isaac Roberts |
| Fras. Coddington | Thos. Maxwell | James Aitken |
| Jeremiah Doulton | Thomas Bilney | Nathan Saxton |
| Samuel Morcock | Wm. Clark | Allan Stuart |
| John Cubbee | John Rose | Peter Bacon [deleted] |
| Wm. Anderson | Davis Austin | Jonathan Bacon |
| John Lawson | John Gibbons | Donald Fraser[54] |
| Nathn. Bacon | Thomas Bosomworth | |

The church wardens and vestry purchased a parsonage for the Reverend Lowton and attempted to obtain money from James Habersham of Savannah to enlarge their house of worship.[55] It is not known, however, whether or not they were successful in their attempt to obtain funds for Lowten's support, because he was transferred to the larger Church of England in Savannah in the latter part of 1771. Records do not indicate whether the Sunbury Anglican congregation ever obtained another clergyman.

Sunbury reached the height of its prosperity in the early 1770s; however, although the seaport town flourished for many years after the Revolution, it never again reached such a high level of commercial activity and importance. Perhaps the best description of colonial Sunbury and the surrounding countryside comes from the diary of William Bartram, the famed

botanist who traveled throughout the southern colonies in his quest for unusual flora. Bartram arrived in Savannah in the spring of 1773, where he began his first exploration of the Georgia coast:

> After resting, and a little recreation for a few days in Savannah, and having in the mean time purchased a good horse, and quipped myself for a journey southward, I set off early in the morning for Sunbury, a sea-port town, beautifully situated on the Main between Medway and Newport rivers, about fifteen miles south of great Ogeeche river. The town and harbour are defended from the fury of the seas by the north and south points of St. Helena and South Catherines islands; between which is the bar and entrance into the sound: the harbour is capacious and safe, and has water enough for ships of great burthen. I arrived here in the evening, in company with a gentleman, one of the inhabitants, who politely introduced me to one of the principal families, where I supped and spent the evening in a circle of genteel and polite ladies and gentlemen....
>
> There are about one hundred houses in the town neatly built of wood frame having pleasant Piasas [sic] around them. The inhabitants are genteel and wealthy, either Merchants or Planters from the Country who resort here in the Summer and Autumn, to partake of the Salubrious Sea breeze, Bathing & sporting on the Sea Islands ... Here is a Custom house and Naval office for the incouragement of Commerce. I went over to one of the Sea Islands, but discovered nothing new ...
>
> Obedient to the admonitions of my attendant spirit, curiosity, as well as to gratify the expectations of my worthy patron, I again set off on my southern excursion, and left Sunbury, in company with several of its polite inhabitants, who were going to Medway meeting, a very large and well constructed place of worship, in St. John's parish, where I associated with them in religious exercise, their pious and truly venerable pastor, the Rev. Osgood. This respectable congregation is independent, and consist chiefly of families, and proselytes to a stock, which this pious man led about forty years ago, from South Carolina, and settled in this fruitful district. It is about nine miles from Sunbury to Medway meeting-house, which stands on the high road opposite the Sunbury road toward Fort Barrington, on the Alatamaha, passing through a level country, well watered by large streams, branches of Medway and Newport rivers....[57]

## Chapter 2

## "THE FORT, BARRACKS, AND OTHER WORKS AT SUNBURY" 1775 - 1778

Throughout the 1750s and 1760s, the royal colony of Georgia experienced growth and prosperity under the close surveillance of the King of England, Parliament, and the royal governor. The Georgians had continually shipped only raw goods to the British Isles, while importing English manufactured articles, and their economy had flourished as a result. Therefore, in the early 1770s, when the larger and wealthier northern colonies began to murmur in displeasure at the British colonial treatment, Georgia had no real reason to think of lending an ear. Nevertheless, in a few short years after Massachusetts and Virginia had heatedly opposed the Stamp and Townshend acts, the weak and pampered Georgia colony found itself almost wholeheartedly advocating rebellion.

During 1774 and again in the following year, a Provincial Congress of Georgia's rebellious citizenry convened in Savannah. This group succeeded in gaining absolute political control of the recalcitrant colony before the end of 1776. One of the primary resolves of this Congress was to enforce a boycott -- ordered by the First American Continental Congress -- on all British goods. The revolutionary fever spread quickly throughout Georgia, creating a high level of excitement among inhabitants of both Sunbury and Midway. The citizens of St. John's Parish apparently expected the underlying political rift between Sunbury's Whigs and Tories would eventually surface in open defiance, but it was not known just when the initial conflict would erupt.

On the evening of June 26, 1775, James Kitching and Isaac Antrobus, His

Majesty's customs officials for the port of Sunbury, attempted to seize a schooner that had arrived from the West Indies laden with illegal casks of British wine and other prohibited goods. Using the boycott on British goods as their motivation, a party of Sunbury men boarded the vessel and forceably prevented the two officials from completing their task. As Kitching returned to his home the next day, he noted "a great number of the Inhabitants of the Town of Sunbury & Parish of Saint John assembled together at a Pole which had been erected the day before ... called the Liberty Pole." In a second attempt by Antrobus to prevent the schooner from unloading its illegal cargo, he was violently hoisted over the ship's side into a small boat and ordered out of town. The vociferous Sunbury citizens then cut loose the schooner from her fastenings and navigated her down the river "with a Drum beating colours flying & Huzzaing in open defiance of the laws of this Country."[58]

The Whigs of St. John's Parish had finally flexed their muscles in open rebellion, and, working simultaneously with their fellow revolutionaries in Savannah, they gained more and more power over the royal government in the following months. Although the Whigs lacked efficient organization and firm direction, they had displayed to Britain and their sister colonies that they, too, were capable of revolting.

From 1775 until the fall of Savannah to the British in 1778, the Council of Safety, operating from Georgia's capital city, functioned as the main organ of the rebel government. This Council worked in accord with the Provincial Congress, but it continued to function after the temporary Congress was dissolved. During August of 1775, the Council gained control of the colony's military force, thereby obtaining absolute authority over all of Georgia. Before the end of that year, Governor Wright fled the colony, and British

resistance to the Whig government subsequently disappeared.

The organization of the military troops that served in Georgia during the Revolution can be divided into four classifications: Continental, state line, militia, and volunteer. Four Continental battalions of foot companies, one Continental regiment of light horse, three Continental companies of artillery, and five Continental galleys guarded the Georgia coast at various times during the first three years of the Revolution. However, the Georgia militia units comprised the principal military force in the infant state during the war years, with volunteer and state units supplementing the militia forces in a number of areas. [Appendix A contains a listing of military rank designations with their meanings, as well as short sketches of most of the military figures mentioned in this report.]

The Third Regiment of Georgia Militia was composed of men from St. John's and the other southern parishes. As far as can be presently ascertained, it consisted of only one battalion, commanded successively by Colonels Mark Carr (1759-61), Kenneth Baillie (1761-66), Elisha Butler (1766-76), John Baker (1776), James Screven (1776-77), John Sandiford (1777-78), John Elliott (1778-79), and John Baker (1779-81). But in addition to the continuous protection that Sunbury received from militia troops, the inhabitants of that town apparently felt special military forces were needed to guard against possible British incursions. Acccordingly, the Council of Safety sanctioned the formation of two volunteer companies in the town in early 1776: On January 8, John Baker received a commission as captain of the St. John's Riflemen, and the next day, John Screven received a similar commission as captain of the St. John's Rangers.[59]

The first British attack on Sunbury came in April of 1776. Two armed schooners -- the Hynd and the Hinchinbrook -- anchored off the mouth of the

Medway River on April 21. While the Hynd guarded the entrance to St. Catherines Sound, the Hinchinbrook sailed over Sunbury bar and up the Medway River to the town. In a nearby creek lay a brigantine being loaded with lumber; another ship was lying nearby in stocks while being outfitted as a privateer. The Hinchinbrook succeeded in burning both ships before returning to the sound. Angry Georgia troops retaliated swiftly, for as the two schooners passed the island of St. Catherines on their way to the sea, "they were attack'd by about 6 hundred and Fifty or Sixty Crackers ... on the Island of St. Catherine."[60] The engagement lasted only half an hour before the patriots retreated into the woods and the British ships sailed on unharmed to Antigua, but Sunbury seems to have learned a bitter lesson on that day which it would not soon forget: If the British were to come again, the town should be prepared![61]

As evidence of this resolution, the minutes of the Council of Safety for May 15, 1776, show that two new volunteer companies were formed in the southern port with John Hardy and Nathaniel Saxton commissioned as captains.[62] Then, on June 8 of that year, the Council ordered three more defense measures for the town. First, Colonel Lachlan McIntosh, commanding the First Georgia Battalion, was to reinforce the detachment of troops from his battalion stationed in Sunbury "with as many of the battalion as will make a company"; second, Captain Nathaniel Saxton, commanding a volunteer company in Sunbury, was to draft half of his company to "appear under arms every day, till the present alarm ceases"; and third, Colonel John Baker, commanding the Third Regiment of Georgia Militia, was "to hire a number of negroes to finish in a more proper manner the intrenchments about Sunbury."[63] Records which are presently available do not indicate just when the construction of these entrenchments was begun, but the order clearly indicates the

existence of such entrenchments in at least a partial state of completion in 1776.

Even the Continental Congress in Philadelphia felt concern over Sunbury's weak defenses. On the day following the signing of the Declaration of Independence, a committee appointed to study Georgia's needs made its report. Among other items, the committee members mentioned a proposal by the delegates from Georgia to erect two forts, one at Savannah and the other at Sunbury. In light of this proposal, Congress resolved "that two Companies of Artillery be raised, consisting of fifty men each, Officers included, for the purpose of garrisoning such Forts, in case they shall be erected...."[64] These actions of the Continental Congress were read before the Georgia Council of Safety on August 30 and approved. On July 30, the Council had granted a Mr. Andrew £100 "for erecting a battery in the Town of Sunbury;" therefore, in August, when the congressional actions were sanctioned, Sunbury's known defense works consisted of entrenchments around the town and a partially erected battery somewhere in the town. The proposed fort had yet to be constructed.

During August of 1776, Sunbury was once again the scene of intense military excitement. On the first day of the month, James Kitching, former collector of customs in Sunbury, escaped from Georgia aboard a British schooner bound for St. Augustine, where he arrived August 9. According to a letter he wrote that day to Patrick Tonyn, governor of the faithful British colony of East Florida, "an Armament by Land & Sea" was being fitted out in Sunbury on the day he left:

> ... consisting of a large flat on which was Mounted One Twelve pounder & Six Swivels with two Small Schooners Attendants and

> about One hundred and Eighty Men, destined for the River St. Marys, with Hostile intentions against His Majestys Armed Schooner St John, to lay waste Mr Wrights Fort, and to plunder the Island of Amelia with other plantations adjacent thereunto.[66] [The British had obtained all of Florida in 1763 from the Spanish government and had established a colony, which became a haven for Tory refugees during the American Revolution.]

A few days after Kitching wrote of the armed vessels in Sunbury, troops from South Carolina, under the command of Major General William Moultrie, arrived in Savannah to join troops already assembled there from North Carolina and Virginia, under the command of Major General Charles Lee, commander of the Southern Department, for an expedition against East Florida and St. Augustine. These troops marched quickly to Sunbury, but as they prepared to march south from there in September, General Lee suddenly received a call to return to the North. He immediately vacated Sunbury and took all of the North Carolina and Virginia troops with him.[67] This hasty withdrawal, coupled with much sickness among the troops remaining in Sunbury, seems to have crushed the first Florida expedition before it ever left Georgia.

Major General Robert Howe of South Carolina had accompanied Moultrie and Lee to Sunbury; after Lee's departure, Howe replaced him as commander of the Southern Department. Upon Howe's return to the headquarters of the Southern command in Charleston, S.C., he wrote to Button Gwinnett, at that time speaker of the Georgia patriots' newly formed House of Assembly in Savannah. In this letter, dated September 20, 1776, Howe expressed strong views on the defense of Sunbury:

> I think Sunbury a place so important that it ought by all means to be maintained, in view of a good bar, from which ships may reach the town in an hour, opening a passage into every part of your country, with a fine harbor before it, a situation for troops both comfortable and secure, and in the neighborhood of many islands abounding in stock; it cannot but become an object to the

> enemy, should they ever attack you at all; for I persuade myself that they could station themselves at no place so beneficial to them, or injurious to you. All this militates strongly against suffering them to take possession of it, which by a battery built upon a point near the Town that commands the passage up the river, and by some works thrown up in town may, I am persuaded, be easily effected....[68]

Hardly had Gwinnett received Howe's letter than the general's prediction appeared to have come true. On October 7, 1776, the Council of Safety received word of an armed British boat near the Georgia coast, and this, along with other information, gave it "great reason to apprehend an attack." The Council immediately ordered eight boats and 80 men to station themselves at the inlets of Ossabaw, St. Catherines, Sapelo, and St. Simons, and 250 more men to position themselves at Beulah, Hardwick, Sutherland's Bluff, Darien, and Sunbury.[69] The feared attack from the British never came, however, and as for the armed British boat, the Navy Board in Charleston issued orders on November 4 to Captain Thomas Pickering, commander of the Defence, to see to the vessel's destruction. The Board further ordered Pickering to proceed irst to Sunbury to obtain a pilot acquainted with the St. Marys River, where the British ship was then loading.[70] Whether or not he was successful in his mission is unknown.

On December 11, 1776, after the alarm of a British attack had ceased, the Georgia Executive Council appointed a number of persons to construct a battery and other public works in Sunbury. At long last, Sunbury again began construction on its defense works. Unfortunately, the actual record of the Council's resolution is no longer in existence, and the only knowledge of its issuance comes from a later reference in the Council minutes. Therefore, the names of those who participated in and supervised the construction of the battery and public works at Sunbury, as well as the

description of what was actually ordered built, are not presently known. On December 28, John Graves, chairman of the "Sunbury Committee," took an inventory of the guns and ammunition in the public magazine in Sunbury. According to the account, the magazine housed 2,555 pounds of powder, 500 pounds of lead balls, two 18-pound cannon, seven 12-pound cannon, four four-pound cannon, and four two-pound cannon.[71]

The overwhelming failure of the first expedition against British East Florida only served to commit the Georgia House of Assembly to a reduction of St. Augustine, no matter how long it might take. Consequently, in the spring of 1777, the Council of Safety planned a second expedition, to be led by Button Gwinnett, recently commissioned by the patriots' Executive Council as president and commander-in-chief of Georgia. Initially, Lachlan McIntosh, the commanding general of the Georgia Continental Line, served as military leader of the expedition, but due to a political squabble in the latter part of April, both Gwinnett and McIntosh yielded their authority to Colonel Samuel Elbert, commander of the Second Georgia Battalion and senior-ranking colonel in the Continental Line.[72]

The entries in Colonel Elbert's Order Book between March and June of 1777 provide an excellent account of the entire expedition. On April 11, the First and Second Georgia battalions left Savannah for Sunbury, where they arrived two days later. Some of the troops had been detached previously to man two Continental galleys, the Washington and the Lee, which were guarding Sunbury and the Medway River. On April 27, Colonel Elbert received his final orders from General McIntosh in Savannah: Colonel John Baker, in command of the Georgia Continental Light Horse Regiment, was to proceed overland to Sawpit Bluff near the St. Johns River, while Elbert was to

embark on April 30 with the Continental troops and galleys in the hope of executing a rendezvous with Baker 12 days later.[73]

Unfortunately, the projected rendezvous never took place. Baker camped at Sawpit Bluff and waited for his commanding officer. Elbert never arrived, but British troops did, and Baker suffered almost total defeat in the unexpected attack on his forces. After receiving word of the slaughter, the already disheartened Elbert turned his flotilla around and headed for Darien. By July, the Continental galleys, with one company of detachments, were back in Sunbury, and Colonel Elbert had marched on to Savannah.[74] Due to poor planning, political dissension, and ill-equipped troops, the second Florida expedition, like the first, ended in complete failure.

Even though Elbert's overall campaign could be rated as catastrophic, he left several valuable clues to the military situation in Sunbury in his Order Book. In his general orders dated at Sunbury on April 21, 1777, he instructed the guard for the day "to be sent to the Battery to remain there till relieved to-morrow Morning." After arriving at the battery, the officer of the guard was to "enquire of Capt. Morris what his duty there will be."[75] This mention of Captain Morris and a subsequent reference in the general orders of April 27 to "Capt. Morris's Artillery Company" provide substantial evidence that at least part of the resolution of the Continental Congress on July 5 of the previous year -- to provide in part for a company of artillery to be raised for garrisoning the fort to be erected at Sunbury -- had indeed been carried out. Although this fort, ordered to be built in December of 1776 by the Executive Council, had not been built by the time of the second Florida expedition, the Second Company of the Georgia Continental Artillery, under the command of Captain Thomas Morris, was evidently, by then, on full-time duty in the town of Sunbury and its recently-constructed

battery and public works. Various companies of Georgia and South Carolina Continental troops and Georgia militia were stationed in Sunbury from time to time between 1776 and its fall in January of 1779, but only Captain Morris' company remained in the town throughout the entire three-year period.

As a result of Colonel Elbert's brief residence in Sunbury during 1777, he appears to have acquired an active interest in the defense of the town. Illustrative of his sudden concern are orders he issued on December 5 of that year to Captain Jean Pierre Andre Defaupeyret, commander of a French volunteer artillery company:

> You are to proceed immediately to the town of Sunbury in this state, where are a corps of Continental Artillery posted, which you are constantly to be employed in teaching the perfect use of artillery, particularly in the field. Both officers and men are hereby strictly ordered to attend on you for the above purpose, at such times, and in such places as you may direct: and the commanding officer of the troops in that place, on your showing him these orders, will furnish men to do the necessary duty in town & Fort so that there will be nothing to prevent Capt. Morris, with his company, from being perfected in the business for which they were raised. Such pieces of artillery, as you approve of, have mounted on field carriages; and for this purpose, you are empowered to employ the necessary workmen, and procure materials. Your drafts on me, for every necessary expense, accompanying the vouchers, will be duly honored. I am, sir,
>
> Your most obedt. servt,
>
> S. ELBERT, Col. Commdg.[76]

Rumor of a planned British attack on Sunbury reached Georgia in late March of 1778, creating much havoc throughout the state. On March 25, in an effort to provide Sunbury with a proper line of defense, the Executive Council ordered that the people appointed by resolution of December 11, 1776, to construct the defense works in Sunbury "be required with the utmost expedition to complete the Battery and other public works in Sunbury pursuant to the directions of the said resolve."[77] Perhaps Captain Defaupeyret, skilled

artillerist, assisted in supervising the completion of these works.

In April of 1778, the rumored British attack became a reality. While General Augustine Prevost marched from East Florida toward Fort Howe on the Altamaha (the patriots' name for old Fort Barrington), several British brigs sailed up the Georgia coast to attack Sunbury. This attack, however, never came. In a masterful naval victory for the Americans, some of Colonel Elbert's troops succeeded in capturing all of the British vessels as they neared the mouth of the Altamaha.[78] Following the humiliating defeat of their navy, the British land forces retreated back to Florida, allowing the rebel forces to strategically regain the offensive. General Robert Howe, commander of the Southern Department, saw no choice but to pursue the British by organizing another Florida expedition. Some of the troops under Howe advanced as far as the St. Marys River, but as in the first two attempts to attack East Florida, political dissension, disorganization, and a serious epidemic among the soldiers while they were stationed in Sunbury contributed to the failure of this third and final expedition.[79] In retreating from their offensive position, the Georgia military forces had only to await certain counterassault from British East Florida.

The British, as well as the Americans, were not easily discouraged by failure, and the repulse of their first attack on Georgia only led to the beginning of another. Almost as a conditioned reaction to another British threat, the Sunbury citizens began to feel that their defenses were inadequate. John Graves even applied to the Executive Council for additional funds on August 26, 1778, for "the Fort, Barracks, and other works at Sunbury."[80] The Council, however, did not see fit to grant this request, possibly in light of the money already expended for Sunbury's defense works and the tremendous expense of the recently concluded expedition. Nevertheless,

Graves' request does indicate that by August of 1778, Sunbury's defense works contained not only a battery and public works, but also a fort, complete with barracks for troops.

Chapter 3

"COME AND TAKE IT!"
1778 - 1779

British forces from East Florida, commanded by Lt. Col. Lewis V. Fuser, launched their second attack on Sunbury in November of 1778. This carefully planned campaign was to be, in essence, a two-pronged invasion of all of southern Georgia from the Altamaha River north to Savannah, but unfortunately for the King's troops, their plans went awry. Moving with initial swiftness and secrecy, 80 regulars and 600 Tories, led by Lt. Col. Jean Marcus Prevost, landed at Fort Howe on the Altamaha and proceeded northward overland to Midway meetinghouse. Several days later, Lt. Col. Fuser, with 250 regulars, two 24-pounder cannon, and two swivel guns, sailed up the Medway River, landed several miles downstream from Sunbury on Colonels Island Bluff, and marched immediately toward the town.[81]

The first news of the overland invasion by Prevost reached the Medway settlement on November 17, spreading fear and alarm. Many of the planters immediately fled with their families north of the Ogeechee River, but others determined to remain on their plantations, despite the threat of harsh treatment at the hands of conquering British soldiers. One of those remaining was Benjamin Baker, secretary for the Midway Congregational Society, who carefully recorded his daily experiences throughout the entire invasion. From his diary we learn of the Americans' first encounter with the enemy on November 20: A small party of local militia, numbering about 60 men, attempted to determine the size and strength of the invading army and almost fell into an ambuscade with some of the enemy near the bridge leading over the South Newport River (the southern boundary of St. John's Parish).[82]

The next day, another group of local citizenry and militia vainly struggled to stop the progress of the British by defending "the Fort at the House of John Winn," on the North Newport River, where the citizens had fled with their families for shelter and protection.[83] Following their defeat at North Newport, the local militia retreated to Midway meetinghouse, where, according to Baker, "a recruit of some hundreds joined them with some Artillery...."[84] These recruits were actually a combination of militia units and the Third and Fourth Georgia Continental battalions, all led by the senior colonel, John White, commander of the Fourth Georgia Battalion.

Available records indicate that Colonel White ordered 127 men, the largest part of the Third Battalion, to march to Sunbury to reinforce the small garrison already there -- Captain Morris' artillery company.[85] These Third Battalion troops were commanded by Lt. Col. John McIntosh, who, being the senior-ranking officer in Sunbury, was placed in command of the entire fort. A portion of the Third Battalion remained at Midway, along with the entire Fourth Battalion and a large number of militia troops commanded by Brig. Gen. James Screven.

After distributing the forces in his command, Colonel White notifed General Howe in Charleston of the attack and his precautionary measures:

November 21, 1778

> Dr. General.
> ... The number of the Enemy by every intelligence I have been able to collect, appears to be about 1,100, five hundred of which chiefly horsemen, are come by land; and their party now acting against us waging a most abominable and ferocious war. They kill, burn and destroy every thing they meet in their way. They have burnt all the Houses on the other side of Newport Ferry, within 4 miles of Sunbury - Our present stand is at Medway Meeting-House where we have intrenched and broke up the Causway [sic] leading to it. The Enemy have 4 pieces of artillery with them and march with Colours flying and Drums beating in a formidable manner. They are to be joined by 600 Red-Coats who are coming inside by

> water - with a Galley mounting two 18 P.s and a large Flat, under convoy of the Ship George and a Brig of 10 Guns called the Spitfire, with her Tender; which is all the Naval Force they could muster in St. Augustine....
>
> I have manned the Congress Galley with volunteers ... and ordered her south to Sunbury to join the two other Galleys in order to operate with them....[86]

During the night of November 21, some of Colonel Prevost's troops executed a forced march from North Newport River and concealed themselves in a dense thicket about two miles from Midway Church. As the British had hoped, a group of Americans crossed the swamp south of Midway Church early the following morning "on a reconnoitering expedition to ascertain the most suitable spot to plant an ambuscade" to check the reported advance of the British. When the unsuspecting patriots neared the area where the British were hidden, the ambush was suddenly discovered. Colonel John Baker called out to General James Screven, the leader of the rebel party, "General, here they are!" As soon as General Screven's rank was disclosed, the British opened fire on the Americans, wounding and capturing Screven and a Mr. Strother. Colonel Baker and the other members of the scouting party escaped unhurt.[87]

Upon receiving word at Midway Church of the bloody skirmish, Colonel White sent the following letter of inquiry to Colonel Prevost:

> Camp at Midway, Nov. 22, 1778
>
> Sir,
>
> General Screven and Mr. Strother having been missing since the skirmish with your troops, I have sent Major Habersham to know whether they have fallen, or are prisoners in your hands; and in the former case to request that their corpse [sic] may be permitted to be brought in for interment.
>
> I cannot avoid, upon the present occasion, to complain of the equally ruinous and disgraceful warfare carried on by the troops under your command; while your King affects to wish a pacification with America, his officers are heightening the resentment of the people by the most contrary to good offices.

What advantages or consolation do you derive from cruel burnings? Are not the effects of war sufficiently calamitous for the community, that you should transfer them to individuals, and in a manner too without discrimination.

Britons did not use to do so; it is their practice only in these latter days. Having fought in their service, I feel a right to remonstrate against it, and which I the more earnestly do, that I may prevent the horrors of retaliation.

I am, Sir, with proper respect, &c.

J. White C.C.

Lieut. Col. J. Prevost
Commander of the King's troops.[88]

Colonel Prevost answered the inquiries and charges in White's letter with poise and dignity:

St. John's Parish, Nov. 22, 1778

Sir,

I had the honour of your's relative to Brigadier General Screven and Mr. Strother. The former, I am happy to inform you, is likely to do well (from the report of the Surgeons) the other I believe is dead. I shall give directions for his burial.

When you come to consider that many of the troops under my command are irregulars, that many of them have resentments, to account for many acts which I heartily abhor; and that the calamities of war you complain of, have been (by people under your immediate command) given us as a precedent at Bernon's Island, the destruction of every building and animal creature on the Island of Amelia, and the murder of Captain Moore, and other in cold blood; you will own, I hope, that if the retaliation has been severe, it might have been foreseen and expected, and though more costly it will less be felt than that of the poor people who lost their all; at the same time I positively disclaim any approbation of such proceedings; my heart bled for the sufferers, though authorized by the laws of war. I have forbidden in the strictest manner the burning of any houses, and wherever any people have been found to take care of their property, though known to be inimical to the King's government, I have left them in possession of every thing belonging to them, and only required them to remain quietly and peaceably at their own houses....

I have the honour to be, with respect, Sir, your most obedient humble servant,

J. Prevost, Lieutenant Colonel,
Commanding the King's troops in Georgia[89]

Three days after Prevost penned this letter, Colonel Screven joined Mr. Strother in death, his blood reportedly "soaking through feather bed and mattress and falling upon the floor" in the house in which his body lay.[90]

On the same day that Colonel Screven died, the long delayed British troops under Colonel Fuser landed on Colonels Island with field ordnance and began their march toward Sunbury. According to the memoirs of Major Patrick Murray, a soldier with Fuser's troops, the British camped at night "on the slope of rising ground opposite the fort and made [their] fires in their rear which was considerably more elevated, so that when [their] Drums beat the Retreat they [the Americans] fired several cannon shot at [their] fires over [their] heads."[91] On the morning of November 25, 1778, Colonel John McIntosh, commanding the garrison in the fort at the southern end of the town, awoke to find the British in possession of the vacant upper end. Moreover, according to historian C.C. Jones, Jr., armed vessels accompanying Fuser's troops "sailed up Medway river in concert, and took position in front of the fort and in the back river opposite the town simultaneously with its investment on the land side by the infantry and artillery."[92] Shortly after eight o'clock that morning, McIntosh received the following letter from Colonel Fuser, incorrectly addressed to Captain Morris, whom Fuser believed to be in command of the Sunbury fort:

> Sunbury, Nov. 25, 1778
>
> Sir,
>
> You cannot be ignorant that four armies are in motion to reduce this province; the one is already under the guns of your fort, and may be joined when I think proper by Col. Prevost, who is now at the Meetinghouse. The resistence you can or intend to make, will only bring destruction upon this country. On the contrary, if you deliver me the fort which you command, lay down your arms, and remain neuter until the fate of America is determined, you shall

as well as all the inhabitants of this parish, remain in the peaceable possession of your property. Your answer, which I expect in an hour's time, will determine the fate of this country, whether it is to be laid in ashes or remain as above proposed.

I am, Sir, your most obedient, &c.

L.V. Fuser, Col. 60th regiment, and
Commander of his Majesty's troops in
Georgia, on his Majesty's service

To Captain Thomas Morris,
Commander of the fort in Sunbury.

P.S. Since this letter is closed, some of your people have been firing scattering shot about the town. I am to inform you, that if a stop is not put to such irregular proceedings, I shall burn a house for every shot so fired.[93]

Shortly after Colonel McIntosh received Fuser's letter, Major Joseph Lane of the Third Battalion carried McIntosh's scorching and often-quoted reply into the British camp:

Fort Morris, Nov. 25, 1778

Sir,

We acknowledge we are not ignorant that your army is in motion to endeavour to reduce this state. We believe it entirely chimerical that Colonel Prevost is at the Meeting-house; but should it be so, we are in no degree apprehensive of danger from a junction of his army with yours. We have no property, compared with the object we contend for, that we value a rush, and would rather perish in a vigorous defence than accept of your proposals.

We, Sir, are fighting the battle of America, and therefore disdain to remain neuter till its fate is determined -- As to surrendering the fort, receive this laconic reply -- COME AND TAKE IT.

Major Lane, whom I send with this letter, is directed to satisfy you with respect to the irregular loose firing, mentioned on the back of your letter.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient, &c.

John McIntosh, Lieutenant Colonel
of the Continental troops.

Lieut. Col. L.V. Fuser
Of his Britannic Majesty's troops in Georgia.[94]

In accordance with McIntosh's instruction, Major Lane informed Colonel Fuser that the loose firing from the fort into the town was intended as a deterrent against the British; and as for Fuser's threat to "burn a house for every shot," Lane remonstrated that if he executed such a savage and inhuman threat, the rebels would not be upset in the least. "As Soon as he burnt a house at one end of the town," Lane swore the Americans "would apply a torch to the other, and let the flames meet in the center by a mutual conflagration."[95]

In his reply to Colonel Fuser, Colonel McIntosh made the first recorded use of the title "Fort Morris" in regard to the Sunbury fort. This letter heading was probably only a gesture of respect and admiration for Captain Thomas Morris and his gallant artillery company, but the name stuck; until the end of the Revolution, Fort Morris became the permanent referant for the Sunbury defense works.

While the Americans in Sunbury were boldly defying their hated enemy, the Americans at Midway Church were commencing a strategic retreat from their entrenchments. Colonel White reportedly feared that Fuser's troops had already captured the garrison in Sunbury and were marching rapidly to join Prevost south of Midway. Lest the Americans at Midway be caught between two fires as a result of this supposed movement, Colonel White removed his forces northward toward the Ogeechee River on the evening of November 25.[96]

On the following day, Colonel Prevost briefly occupied the area around Midway Church, but receiving false intelligence that a large body of American recruits from South Carolina was on the move against him and fearing that his forces would be surrounded by the enemy, he decided to retreat back

to North Newport -- never dreaming that victory could have been his. Similar fears among the British troops in Sunbury, coupled with a devastating depression over Prevost's retreat, likewise resulted in their subsequent withdrawal to North Newport, fewer than 48 hours after their arrival in Sunbury.[97]

Both parties of British troops remained briefly in the southern part of St. John's Parish before returning further south, giving each colonel an opportunity to blame the other for the unwarranted failure of the expedition. Actually, the movements of both armies during the entire attack were based solely on misinformation. In their retreat, the British burned the Midway Church, destroyed numerous houses, and confiscated 1,000 head of cattle, some sheep, about 300 horses, and 200 blacks from the area.[98]

On December 1, 1778, General Howe finally reached "Slade's Plantation," located near the site of Midway Church, with some reinforcements of Continental troops.[99] He remained there for several days before proceeding to the town of Sunbury, where he ordered "the Commanding Officer of Fort Morris" to report to him "the State of his Garrison; the Number of Ordinances [sic] & quantity of Stores of every kind in the Fort or any other place under his command."[100] The general remained in Sunbury until December 12, during which time he ordered that detachments be sent to Colonels Island and Newport Ferry to serve as lookouts; he also dispersed the three galleys still on duty near Sunbury to various points along the Georgia coast. In a letter to General Moultrie in South Carolina, Howe described the situation in Sunbury as "confused" and "perplexed," adding that the town "is not defensible for half an hour."[101] Howe also wrote another general of his efforts to place the "Fort at Sunbury" in a "state of defence." He applied to the

governor for "hands," but never received any aid.[102]

No sooner had Georgians begun recovering from the devastation caused by Fuser and Prevost than they received information of another attack against their state. This time, it was Savannah which was acutely threatened by a British fleet from New York under the command of Admiral Hyde Parker, with troops on board under the command of Lt. Col. Archibald Campbell. The American officers in Savannah reacted to this crisis by ordering all nearby garrisons to help protect the capital city; some of Sunbury's troops were withdrawn to Savannah for that purpose. On December 25, 1778, two days after Campbell's arrival at the mouth of the Savannah River, General Howe sent word through Colonel John F. Grimke, deputy adjutant general of the Southern Department, for "the Inhabitants of the Town of Sunbury & of the Parish of St. Johns ... not to be disheartened by the Troops marching [to Savannah] to the assistance of their fellow citizens."[103] The general further pledged that in case the enemy decided to march toward the south, he would personally see to the speedy reinforcement and protection of Sunbury. Although he expected no such movement at that time, as a precautionary measure he ordered the commanding officer of artillery at Sunbury to "have the Cannon in the Fort & the Field Pieces put in proper order for service."[104]

On December 27, Major Joseph Lane, the new commanding officer at Sunbury, heard a second time from General Howe via Colonel Grimke. The general felt that the 30 barrels of gunpowder stored in Sunbury's magazines were sufficient for Sunbury's defense; he also ordered the small detachments of troops stationed south of Sunbury to retreat with all haste into Fort Morris in the event of an attack. As soon as expected reinforcements arrived in Savannah, Howe promised to send a "considerable body" to Sunbury.[105] But in spite of the general's good intentions to supply the Sunbury garrison,

events developed so rapidly during the next few days that he had little time to think of anything but saving his own troops from extinction or capture. Within three days, all of Savannah fell swiftly to Campbell's 3,000-man invading army, and Howe's forces barely had time to escape the wrath of a conquering British army. The general fled with his army toward Ebenezer and crossed the Savannah River. He then issued urgent orders for the immediate evacuation of the forts at both Sunbury and Augusta.[106]

Howe was so anxious to give Major Lane fair warning of impending doom that he wrote the sudden order to evacuate Fort Morris "with a pencil, on horseback, in the field, and on the retreat." Less than a hour later, Howe, "fearful that this order might miscarry, and still anxious for the fate of the garrison," directed a second letter "more explicit in its contents" to Major Lane. In this second communication, General Howe "repeated the order for evacuation, and directed, that if the stores could not be removed they should be destroyed, and the cannon spiked."[107] However, upon receipt of these two orders, Lane decided to write Howe for further information rather than immediately carrying out the general's instructions:

> Sir,
>
> About 10 oClock this day I received your Express. I am sorry for the loss of Savannah -- Your orders have forced me into a precarious Dilemma -- at first I thought a retreat practicable, but when I sought among the inhabitants for a Guide to direct my rout [sic] I could not find any person equal to the task -- I held a Council of War, composed of all the Officers of the Fort, and the most respectable Inhabitants, who were unanimous in opinion, that a retreat was impracticable, and that our safety was entirely dependant [sic] on the vigourous defence of the Fort. I can muster about [illegible] for its defence and am determined, as there is no possibility of a retreat, at all risks of my Life to defend it to the last -- I feel a most poignant concern for the necessity, which urged and prompted me to defer executing immediately your Orders -- but hope it may merit a more delicate appellation when you comprehend the cause which inevitably controuled [sic] my conduct -- We have provisions sufficiently to subsist the Garrison for a considerable Siege -- and spirit, resolution and fortitude

in the breast & heart of every Soldier in the Garrison to Conquer or die in case of a Storm -- I hope Sir when the premises are maturely pondered by your Excellency you will not forget us, when ever you have it in your power to support us -- I write the Sentiment of the whole Garrison and humbly hope that it may appear to be a sufficient sanction for my Conduct --

I am with much Esteem Your Excellency's obedient and humble Servant

Jos: Lane Maj & B. Comdng. at Sunbury

Fort Morris 30th December 1778
Major General Howe

P.S. notwithstanding the Contents above written -- If your Excellency thinks you cannot succour us by a speedy reinforcement, and that we shall not derive any advantage to the State from a manly and becoming resistance, and your further advice and orders shall enforce an evacuation of the Fort, I shall (provided I have a Guide sent me for the purpose) exert every faculty to execute the contents of your Express -- As I am totally ignorant of the Country I have no hope of making a good and safe retreat, without a skillful Guide.[108]

Actually, Lane was able to maintain his troops in the fort by stalling to wait for General Howe's reply. Before he received the reply, all opportunity to evacuate the town had passed. As General William Moultrie of South Carolina later charged, "he [Lane] , Don-Quixote-like, thought he was strong enough to withstand the whole force the British had in Georgia for which I think he deserved to be hanged."[109] But while the Continental officers like Howe and Moultrie realized the futility of a small garrison attempting to withstand an entire British army, many Georgians blamed General Howe's hopeless attitude as the cause for the tragic fall of both Augusta and Sunbury.

Previous unpopularity toward Howe had forced headquarters to relieve him of his command of the Southern Department just prior to the attack on Savannah, and as a further result of this antagonistic public sentiment, he was court-martialed in 1781. In justifying his order for evacuation of Fort

Morris, Howe explained, "It would have been horride [sic] in me to have suffered a garrison to have remained in a work too extensive for five times the number of men, ill-constructed, unfinished, without casemates, and without the least probability of relieving it."[110] In reply to being questioned about Major Lane's stubborn resistance to retreat, Howe gave this answer:

> Major Lane, who commanded the fort, had recently been in it second in command, when an attack upon it by the enemy had been gallantly repulsed. The Magistrates and citizens of the town, hoping to defend it again, solicited, implored, and beset him to remain in it. Combined with these, he was in the bloom of youth, and in the hey-day of blood and spirits -- an enthusiastic ardour for fame....[111]

On January 9, 1779, Colonel Campbell halted his pursuit of the main American forces up the Savannah River toward Augusta and turned back eastward "for the purpose of reducing Sunbury Fort ... being the only Station which the Rebels at this Period held in the lower Districts of Georgia."[112] An express from Maj. Gen. Augustin Prevost, received on the evening of January 10, stopped Campbell's orders that boats and canoes be sent to the Ogeechee River to enable his army to cross easily. Prevost, in command of 900 troops, was enroute from Florida to Sunbury, where he planned to lay siege to the town.[113] Upon receiving this welcomed news from Prevost, Campbell immediately directed his attention toward the forthcoming Augusta campaign, fully confident of Prevost's abilities to capture Georgia's southern port.

Four days before Campbell's receipt of the two-week-old communication, Prevost had firmly entrenched his forces around Sunbury in perfect execution of his earlier plans. A party of cavalry and rangers commanded by Lt. Col. Marc (Jean Marcus) Prevost marched overland and surrounded the town during

the night of January 6. According to Patrick Murray, the soldiers took post in "the ditch of the entrenchment, opposite the Fort." The following day, the artillery troops led by Maj. Gen. Augustin Prevost landed seven miles from Sunbury and succeeded in joining forces with the cavalry and rangers, "notwithstanding the fire of two Galleys, an armed Schooner and the Fort."[114]

On January 8, under cover of night, an eight-inch British howitzer and two royals were brought into Sunbury after being hauled from the Newport River. According to General Prevost, a detachment of soldiers moved these artillery pieces past the guns of the fort, and after properly installing them, prepared to fire them the next morning.[115] The British positioned themselves on the two sides of Fort Morris not protected by the actual town of Sunbury or the Medway River: the south and west. The howitzer, placed in an "old battery" lying south of the fort, commanded the southern angle, while the two royals commanded the western angle from behind "a ditch which ran parallel to the Fort about 100 Toises [213 yards]."[116]

Howe requested Lane to surrender his entire garrison on the morning of January 9, and when Lane vehemently declined, the British general turned the full force of the powerful ordnance against Fort Morris. With part of the fort's barracks in flames and four of the garrison wounded, Lane finally realized the futility of further resistance; nevertheless, he held back from surrendering for a few more hours. Two Continental galleys, the Washington and the Bullock, and an armed sloop had taken refuge in the Medway River during the siege on Sunbury, and by using stalling tactics with the British, Lane afforded the sloop and galleys an opportunity to escape down the river with their crews and some of the American troops. The vessels safely reached St. Catherines Sound, but thinking the British were in pursuit of them, the patriots on board beached and burned the two galleys on Ossabaw Island and

attempted to escape out to sea in the sloop. By another stroke of misfortune, this vessel accidentally met an armed British tender, which captured most of the crew on the sloop and brought them to Savannah as prisoners.[117]

Before evening, British soldiers were within 140 yards of the fort and in command of "the gate," which forced Lane to surrender "at discretion."[118] On the morning of January 10, British soldiers entered the surrendered Sunbury fort and took as prisoners the 150 Continentals and 45 militia still there. In addition, the British captured much artillery and many provisions.[119] So ended the second siege against Sunbury, of which four major accounts have survived; two were written within several days by General Prevost, one was recorded over a month later by Major Lane, and a fourth was included in the memoirs of Major Patrick Murray. [See Appendix B for these accounts.]

Immediately upon capturing the garrison, General Prevost renamed the Sunbury fort "Fort George" in honor of King George III and ordered necessary repairs to be made on it. After a few days, he placed a small force under the command of a Lt. Col. Allen in control of the town and appointed Roderick MacIntosh captain of the fort and marched north to Savannah with most of his British troops.[120] The American prisoners were escorted to Savannah on ships. With the reduction of Fort Morris by General Prevost, the Americans lost their last post in coastal Georgia to the British. This terrible loss, coupled with the capture of many of Georgia's ablest officers at both Sunbury and Savannah, left little hope for the rebel cause in the southernmost American state.

Chapter 4

"CONFUSION AND DISORDER AND VIOLENCE SEEM TO REIGN"
1779 - 1783

Lt. Col. Campbell heartily welcomed Maj. Gen. Augustin Prevost to Savannah but left the city himself seven days later for Augusta. Shortly thereafter, Prevost, the highest ranking British officer in Georgia, ordered the privates and non-commissioned officers taken as prisoners in Sunbury to be placed on-board prison ships in the Savannah River. As for the commissioned officers, he subsequently ordered them moved to Sunbury, where they were paroled on their honor and allowed to circulate within the limits of the town.[121]

Several months later, General Prevost sent the First Battalion of DeLancy's Loyalist Brigade to reinforce Colonel Allen at Sunbury.[122] This battalion of 200 men, commanded by Lt. Col. Cruger, had accompanied Colonel Campbell from New York. From the time of Cruger's arrival in Sunbury in March of 1779 until the withdrawal of all British forces in the town during the siege of Savannah in October of 1779, the British maintained a relatively strong garrison in Fort George. However, the American prisoners paroled in Sunbury and a few Tory families who returned to Georgia in 1779 were the only civilian inhabitants of the largely deserted town of Sunbury.

During June of 1779, the patriots made two notable naval incursions against British-held Sunbury. The first took place on the night of June 4 and was led by a Captain Spencer, commander of an American privateer. On the morning before the raid, Spencer received word of an intended celebration of the King's birthday at the home of Thomas Young at Belfast on the Medway.

According to Georgia historian Hugh McCall, Captain Spencer proceeded up the river in the evening and landed with 12 men at Belfast: "Between eight and nine o'clock at night Spencer entered the house, and made Colonel Cruger and the party of officers [who had been invited to the celebration] prisoners of war." Spencer paroled the prisoners the next morning and allowed them to return to Sunbury to await an exchange; Cruger obtained an exchange very soon thereafter and resumed his command of Fort George.[123]

In the second June raid, Colonel John Baker led 30 men in attacking a house near Sunbury where a party of Georgia Loyalists, under the command of a Captain Goldsmith, had gathered. Several of the Loyalists were killed or wounded, including a Lieutenant Gray, who was decapitated during the fracas.[124]

Many of Georgia's finest military leaders lived in Sunbury during 1779 as paroled prisoners. Among these irreplaceable officers were Colonel John Stirk, commander of the Third Continental Battalion; Captain Thomas Morris; Colonel Samuel Elbert, commander of the Second Continental Battalion; Captain John Fraser of the Third Continental Battalion; Major John Habersham of the First Continental Battalion; Mordecai Sheftall, deputy commissary general of the Continental Issues in Georgia, and Colonel Commandant George Walton, acting commander-in-chief of the Georgia militia forces.[125] Walton, captured at the fall of Savannah and hospitalized for a leg wound received during the battle, was sent to Sunbury in the spring of 1779, and as the senior-ranking officer, he immediately became the superior commander for the entire group of parolees -- militia and Continental officers alike.

The paroled officers seemed to have enjoyed many privileges in Sunbury; they were allowed to live and work within the town, rent places of residence,

and in some cases travel to Savannah for supplies and rum.[126] Naturally with such liberties an officer could readily escape, but the dishonor associated with such an action prevented most from indulging in a flight to freedom. However, in late June of 1779, two lieutenants in the Continental troops left the garrison "in contempt of their parole" and fled toward Midway.[127] When Colonel Walton discovered this desertion the next morning, he quickly informed the commanding British officer in Sunbury and dispatched a letter to Colonel John Baker, in command of the closest American forces, with orders that the men be returned immediately. The men still had not appeared on June 29, so Walton, at the suggestion of the British superior officer, wrote to General Benjamin Lincoln, the new commander of the Southern Department, in Purisburg, S.C., to request that both prisoners "be safely conveyed to the Head-Quarters of the British Army in Georgia, without delay."[128] If the lieutenants were ever caught, they no doubt received severe punishment and further confinement.

Using Savannah as a headquarters, the British spread their authority throughout much of the state during 1779; British control of Georgia posed an ominous threat to the whole southern American flank which could not go unchecked. Therefore, the American's French allies decided to join the American forces to attempt a recapture of the city of Savannah. The French fleet, under the command of Comte Charles-Henri d'Estaing, agreed to launch a land-and-sea attack in conjunction with the forces of General Lincoln. In early September, the first ships of the large fleet appeared off Tybee Island at the mouth of the Savannah River and caused considerable alarm among Georgia Loyalists in the vicinity of the city.[129]

Because of the shortage of troops in Savannah, General Prevost sent

expresses on September 8 to all nearby outposts and ordered them to withdraw into the capital city. He also ordered Colonel Cruger to abandon Sunbury, to "dismantle the Fort, and to destroy what could not be carried off."[130] Cruger traveled overland to Savannah, "with all his men able to march," and arrived there on September 10; "His sick and convalescent he embark'd on board an arm'd Vessel" to sail for the city.[131] However, the French fleet's control of the mouth of the Savannah River forced this latter portion of his forces, led by a Captain French, to take post further south on the Ogeechee River, completely isolated from Savannah. Here, they were surrounded by the forces of Colonel John White, who demanded and received their surrender on October 1. As a result, 141 prisoners, two armed schooners, and three other vessels fell into American hands.[132]

Surprisingly, the withdrawal of the British garrison from Sunbury created quite a problem for the American officers there. Several bands of Tories, led by Daniel McGirth, began raiding Sunbury and the surrounding countryside, and the paroled officers, unprotected and unable to defend themselves, became a prime target for these vengeful adversaries. The Tories threatened to massacre all of the officers and actually did kill Captain William Hornby of the Fourth Continental Battalion during one raid.[133] Cognizant of the need for a defense force, General Lincoln sent a garrison of 25 soldiers, under command of Militia Colonel John Elliott, to take post in the Sunbury fort. In a letter from Walton to Lincoln, dated September 29, the Sunbury superior officer called the step "extremely advisable," giving "satisfaction and security to the prisoners," and "to the Inhabitants of this district also, who were equally exposed to the ravages of the Enemy, and the shameful and destructive plunderings of their own people...."[134]

General Lincoln's attention had been directed toward the plight of the

Sunbury prisoners because of a memorial presented him. In an effort to convince the British of the dangerous situation they had created by evacuating Sunbury, Lincoln sent General Prevost a copy of the memorial. Prevost responded with a letter to Lincoln, in which he agreed to enlarge the prisoners' limits five or six miles inland, although they were not to "go on the Sea." The paroled officers had complained also of a lack of supplies, and Prevost promised to "keep them regularly Supplyed" with fresh victuals. In concluding, Prevost nonchalantly prophesied that "if they remain within the limits Allowed them, they will not be exposed to any insult."[135]

D'Estaing and his forces landed near Savannah in mid-September and proceeded unsuccessfully to lay siege to the town. After three disappointing weeks with no apparent success, General Lincoln and Count d'Estaing ordered a final assault on the city on October 9, 1779, with their combined forces. But in spite of a gallant attempt on the part of both the Americans and the French, the battle ended in dismal failure, and the rebel forces began their second retreat from Georgia in utter defeat.

Colonel Walton wrote again to General Lincoln from Sunbury on October 13. Having received word from Lincoln several days earlier that the American forces around Savannah would soon retreat back to South Carolina, Walton found it necessary to report to him the feelings of his fellow officers in Sunbury in relation to their subsequent status:

> It is the wish -- I might add the right -- of all the prisoners to be exchanged, or to have their limits extended. They all think with me, that the Enemy, by withdrawing their protection and support, independent of McGirth's threats, gave up the matter of confinement....
>
> I have enquired of the prisoners ... and they are unanimously of opinion that they make not the least breach of a parole of

> honor by going where they please (except to operating armies) in the department, and this opinion they found on what has already been communicated to you, and on the certainty of being at least insulted by McGirth's banditts [sic] presently after the evacuation of Sunbury by your Guard, an event which will take place very shortly I fear, from the nature of its Garrison, and the general report of your raising the Siege of Savannah. This being their situation, it is difficult to determine the best way to act....[136]

In reply to Walton's confusion and in light of the precarious situation in Sunbury after the American guard did evacuate the town, General Lincoln reccommended that the prisoners remove to a place of more safety, but that they consider themselves still on parole.

Taking the general's advice to heart, the officers scattered from Sunbury in all haste. Some proceeded overland to join Lincoln's retreating forces as they left the Savannah area, but several others, including Captain Morris and Mordecai Sheftall, "Embark'd on board of a Brig in the Harbor of Sunbury, which had been taken in the said harbour by a Small American privateer, for to proceed in her to Charles Town in South Carolina...."[137] Also on board the brig were the wives of Walton and Morris, as well as the Morris children. The vessel crossed the Sunbury bar on October 24 and then turned north along the Georgia coast. Unfortunately, 25 days later, instead of being safely in Charleston, the officers, their wives and children, and servants on board the brig found themselves hundreds of miles south of their original destination on the British West Indies island of Antigua -- prisoners once more.[138]

Immediately upon landing in Antigua on November 18, Captain Morris wrote the following letter to George Walton, in camp with General Lincoln, to provide him with an account of the highly adventurous voyage, along with news of Mrs. Walton [Due to the numerous errors contained in the letter, no note will be made of these in the text except for purposes of clarity]:

St. Johns in Antigua Novr 18th 1779

Dear Walton,

I have taken this oppertunity of informin you of our misfortunes. The very first night we got out of St. Cathrins we fell a thought [athwart] of an english fregate who Emmediately Set off with us to this place. The Guadaluape Captn Hugh Robinson commander. He is a gentleman of grate humanity and [did] every thing in his power to make the ladys hapy, which I supose Mrs Walton hath informed you. All the ladys had a very sevear tryall [severe trial] nothing but Vileant [violent] gails of wind indeed at one time never thought of writing to you again. We was obliged to heave six of our grate guns over board. Lost our Boats and was obliged to have [heave] the most of our frish water in order to write [right] our ship and was a going to Cut away our mast but by having [heaving] the water prevented it. Poore Mrs. Walton bore all her trbles with the gratest fortitude, and even ate [at] appearance of an engagement She seemed undanted [undaunted]. Miss Butler and Mrs. Morris I have not any thing to say in favour of in regard of good spirits, and indeed Miss Butler and Mrs Morris hardley ever had a well hour on board constanly sea sick. We have been very well used heare since our arivel. But when we are to get away I am not able to till [tell] you ... But my dear Walton I hope you will contrive some method of comeing or sending for us in a safe way and not be liable to be taken again, by your geting of a flag of Truce from genl Lincoln of [or] Governr Rutledge....

I heardly [hardly] think we shall see you befour April or May. My best Compliments to all our friends. From Dr. Walton your most Humble Servt

Thos Morris....[139]

During the spring or summer of 1780, all of those stranded in Antigua were able to obtain an exchange, and by borrowing or receiving money, they made their way back to the United States.[140]

After the exodus of the American prisoners from Georgia in late October of 1779, Sunbury appeared more than ever to be a ghost town. The only remaining inhabitants were Tories such as Roger Kelsall, James Kitching, Mathias Lapina, Simon Munro, Simon Paterson, and Charles Watts. Some of these men had fought with either Fuser or Prevost in their attacks on Sunbury, and most of them had been residents of the town before the Whigs had taken control of Georgia's government during 1775.[141]

Mathias Lapina, an interesting exception, was a native of Genoa, Italy, and a former resident of St. Thomas in the West Indies. He resided temporarily in Sunbury during 1779, but because he innocently sought protection in the fort when Prevost captured the town, he became a prisoner of war. He was subsequently paroled in Sunbury by General Prevost but did not flee like the other American prisoners in October of that year. Instead, he continued to reside there "and conducted himself in the most Peaceable, orderly & inoffensive manner."[142] According to a sworn statement made by Roger Kelsall and Simon Munro on September 12, 1780, Lapina carefully preserved "a Quantity of Medicines belonging to the Kings Hospital" during the Siege of Savannah and protected a trunk of valuable papers belonging to Kelsall.[143] As a result of this evidence of loyalty to the British government, the newly-reinstated governor of British Georgia, Sir James Wright, released Lapina from his parole and allowed him the protection of citizenship.[144]

Available records indicate that Sunbury's only military protection from November of 1779 until April of 1782, when the British began their official evacuation of Georgia, came from the Third Regiment of Foot Militia (or the Sunbury Regiment of Loyal Militia).[145] This local organization was in existence as early as November 23, 1779, and possibly had been formed even before the siege of Savannah.[146] This militia unit mainly served to maintain relative security against small parties of plundering rebels from the Georgia back-country, but its effectiveness in protecting all of St. John's Parish, its sphere of responsibility, no doubt left something to be desired. Roger Kelsall served as colonel of Sunbury's militia, while two friends, Simon Munro and Charles Watts, served as lieutenant colonels.[147]

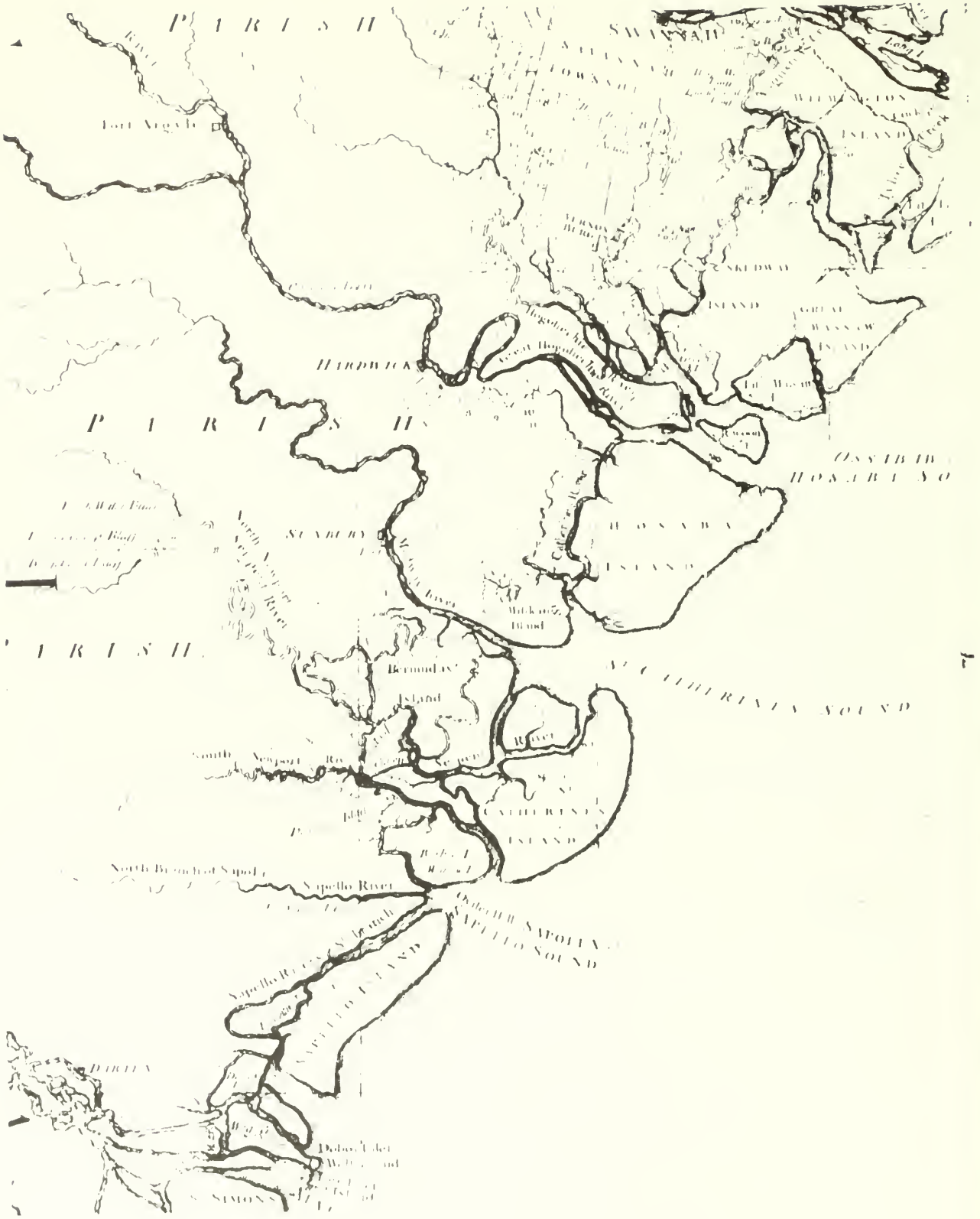



*Illustration 3.*
*Map of Georgia (including the area around Sunbury)*
*by John Stuart, 1780*

On several occasions during 1780, Governor Wright tried desperately to obtain additional military protection for Sunbury, as well as for Georgia's other British controlled cities. On February 14, he pleaded with British officials for one armed vessel at the town, and on July 19, he asked for 50 regulars.[148] In a letter to Lord George Germain on October 27, Wright evaluated the Sunbury military force as "Nothing," showing conclusively that his efforts to gain support had all proved unsuccessful.[149]

During 1781, the Americans grew much bolder in their attacks on British occupied Georgia, and the Sunbury residents came to fear these attacks, executed swiftly and without warning. Historian Hugh McCall recorded one such rebel incursion:

> On the morning of the 4th of June, captain [John] Howell entered the inlet of Sunbury, where he found a negro man fishing. The negro informed him that he had been sent out to catch fish for Mr. Kitchin, the collector at Sunbury, with whom a party of British civil and military officers were to dine, it being the King's birth-day. Kitchin's house was not more than four hundred yards from the fort, and the execution of the plan to capture the party required caution and courage. Supposing that they would be completely off their guard, and that they would indulge in the free use of the glass, upon such an occasion, until a late hour; Howell selected twelve men, and proceeded up the river, under cover of night, with muffled oars, and landed undiscovered: he surrounded the house, about eleven o'clock, and took twelve prisoners; among the number was colonel Roger Kelsall, who had insulted and otherwise ill-treated Howell, while he was a prisoner of war [during 1779]. The feelings of resentment, which actuated Howell at the first moment, determined him to carry off Kelsall and drown him; but the influence of the lady of the house, who begged that his life might be spared, induced him to change his determination, and the whole party were paroled upon the beach, who pledged themselves not to take up arms until they were regularly exchanged. Howell retired to his privateer unmolested, and without sustaining any loss. When Kelsall returned to the fort, he observed, that he expected nothing short of death, when he founded himself in captain Howell's power; and that he had no right to look for such mild treatment as he had received.[150]

With resentment and determination similar to that of Captain Howell, the

commanding officers of two American galleys unsuccessfully attacked the British brigantine Dunmore on September 18, 1781, as it sailed from Sunbury for Jamaica. After a battle and chase of many hours, the brig finally made its escape into the safety of Savannah.[151]

The British evacuation of Sunbury and all of Georgia began in April of 1782. By that time, England had few strongholds left in America, and victory for the United States was seen to be inevitable. Cornwallis' army had surrendered in the autumn of 1781, and the British had neither the heart nor the money to fight on against the belligerent Americans. In November of 1782, the two warring nations signed a preliminary peace treaty in Paris, giving final assurance that the American Revolution was over.

To the few who chanced to venture near its outskirts, Sunbury presented a picture of complete desolation. Not only had the remaining residents fled during the spring of 1782, but in April of that year, Captain Scallion of the British galley Arbuthnot had destroyed and burned much of the town, including, no doubt, a large part of the Sunbury fort.[152] Benjamin Baker, still paroled by the British to his Midway home, verbally mourned the dismal state of social, military, and religious affairs in all of St. John's Parish:

> How have I been distressed when considering the [Midway] Church being broken up and driven from this place, and no appearance of religion in this neighborhood, except in three families, and they at such a distance from each other as not to see each other but very seldom. Confusion and disorder and violence seem to reign in this place. It appears to me that there is hardly a more wicked people than those among whom I live.[153]

America's revolt against her mother country was truly over, but Sunbury had paid a grievous price. The Sunbury residents would return, houses would be rebuilt, and churches would be reconstructed, but never again would this

port city see the prosperity, importance, and growth of its colonial days. The golden age of Sunbury was gone forever.

Chapter 5

"SUNBURY VILLAGE"
1784 - 1808

During 1782 and 1783, the inhabitants of Midway and Sunbury slowly returned to their devastated homes from the disbanding American armies, from South Carolina, and, in some cases, from even further north. For a while, the surge of resettlement appeared to bring back the prosperity of other days, but as C.C. Jones, Jr., later explained, this rejuvenation proved transient. Many of the former residents failed to return, while still others soon left because of the impoverished condition of the general area.[154] But although the post-war town did not continue to grow, it did not lose its importance immediately following the Revolution.

By January 31, 1783, Sunbury once again functioned as a town unit, with a port collector and a commissary of prisoners. Most of the port collector's records have been lost, but one surviving register for October of 1787, which is included in Appendix C, indicates that Sunbury's function as a port continued for several decades after the Revolution. The local militia experienced a reorganization, and perhaps for a brief period, there was once again an American garrison stationed in Sunbury.[155] Georgia's 1777 Constitution gave new county names to the old parishes, so that St. John's Parish became Liberty County. At its formation, Liberty County contained four districts: Sunbury, Midway, North Newport, and Canoochee. The Sunbury District consisted of the town of Sunbury, the surrounding plantations on Midway Neck, and nearby St. Catherines and Colonels islands. Under the new system of government, each county kept its own land and estate records and held its own

courts.

Sunbury was designated as the county seat of Liberty County, and the first session of the superior court was held there on November 18, 1783. For 14 years, Sunbury remained host to these sessions. However, discontent over Sunbury's dominance of county politics led the Georgia Legislature to order an election on April 26, 1796. The citizens of Liberty County voted 101 to 48 to move the county offices a few miles inland from Sunbury to the fast-growing town of Riceboro at North Newport Bridge.[156]

On December 8, 1791, the Georgia General Assembly passed an act to provide regulatory legislation for Sunbury. The act stipulated that the town must hold an election for town commissioners on the second Monday in January of 1792 and every third year thereafter. Any owner of a lot or house in the town -- and who was also white, male, and over the age of 21 -- was entitled to ballot for five commissioners. Each commissioner also had to be a lot or house owner, white, male, over 21, and an inhabitant of Sunbury. On the Monday following each election, a majority of the five elected commissioners was to meet and appoint a town clerk and any other officers necessary for the regulation of the town. These commissioners were to be vested with the power to meet, conduct business, levy taxes, confiscate property for nonpayment of taxes, superintend the pilotage of the port of Sunbury, and keep the peace and order of the town.[157] With a few minor changes, this regulatory act continued in force in Sunbury until around 1825, when the elections were abandoned and the few remaining inhabitants of the town quietly agreed to manage their own affairs without the supervision of town officials.[158] [See Appendix C for a listing of tax digests and other records which provide information on residents and lot owners.]

For a few years following the Revolution, blacks were still brought from Africa and the West Indies to the port of Sunbury and publically sold as slaves. The town citizens, recalling the many outbreaks of disease prior to the war, succeeded in getting the Executive Council to pass a preventive act on May 27, 1784. This act forced slave ships arriving in Sunbury to land and quarantine their cargoes on Cedar Hammock in the Medway River. Only after five to ten days on the tiny island and a doctor's permission could a ship proceed further up the river.[159]

In spite of the inhumane practices of slave-trading, the Sunbury residents sometimes exhibited compassion for those of the black race who lived and worked among them. On July 21, 1791, a group of "Sunbury ladies" presented a memorial to the Liberty County Superior Court because of their feelings toward a particular slave. The memorial explained that a mulatto named Billy, owned by Thomas Stone of Sunbury and the son of a free woman "of color" in St. Augustine, Fla., had shown "much kindness to many prisoners from this State, as also that of So Carolina, During their Captivity there [in St. Augustine]." The mother had been in the process of buying her son from Stone for a small price, but just prior to the time of her son's departure to Florida, he had been found guilty of some "malpractices." The Sunbury women prayed that Billy would be pardoned so that he might join "his Distressed and Aged Mother," but the final outcome of their attempt is not known.[160] [This incident constitutes but one isolated example of Sunbury's attitudes toward slavery and is not intended to be representative of the citizens' general actions, which were not examined by the author.]

In the latter years of its existence as a town, Sunbury served more as a summer residence for the planters in the surrounding counties than as a

permanently-settled community. Rather than spend the scorching summer and autumn months on the unhealthy inland plantations surrounded by mosquito-infested swamps and marshes, many Liberty County families maintained houses in Sunbury, where the ocean breezes and tides brought cooling relief. Even before the Revolution, the town had been used by the Midway planters as a retreat, and as Sunbury's commercial importance plummeted in the post-war years, its importance as a fashionable resort greatly increased. The bustling wharfs of colonial days were replaced by grassy slopes along the Medway, and the once-active port evolved into a tranquil village.

Mercantilism never returned to the town on a large scale after the Revolution, but Sunbury did attain considerable prestige as an educational, religious, and social center for the coastal area of Georgia. On February 1, 1788, the state legislature appointed Abiel Holmes, James Dunwody, John Elliott, Gideon Dowse, and Peter Winn as commissioners of a Sunbury academy, with the power to raise money to construct a suitable house for the school.[161] These commissioners, quite serious in their intent to found an academy in Sunbury, immediately went to work on the project. The following autumn, the Georgia Gazette announced that the opening ceremonies for the school were held September 15. According to the Gazette:

> A very respectable number of the inhabitants of the town and of the vicinity assembled, on the occasion, at the house of Mr. McIver on the Bay, where, after an introductory prayer by the Rev. Mr. Holmes, and singing, an ingenious and instructive essay on the subject of education was pronounced by Mr. Hitchcock. The exercises concluded with prayer. The silent and respectful attention of the audience gave a convincing proof of their pleasure and approbation, and of a ready disposition to encourage and patronize the institution....[162]

The first instructor at the academy was the Rev. Reuben Hitchcock, who, according to the Gazette, was "a gentleman whose testimonials from the

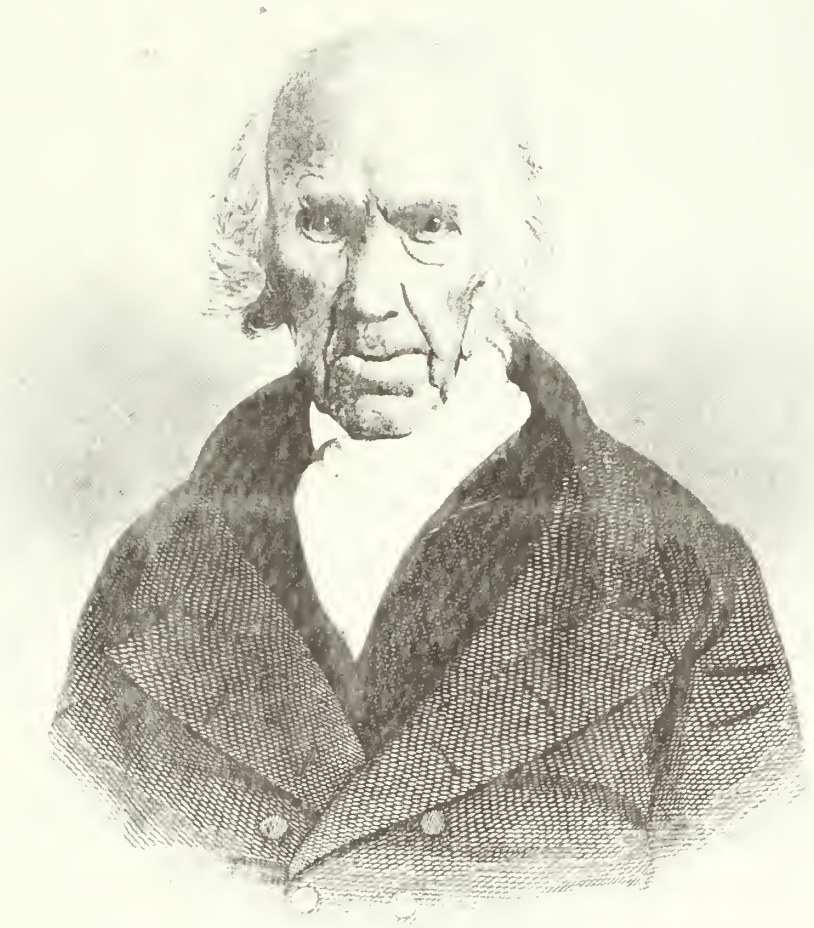
President and Tutors of Yale College, where he was educated, are ... fully satisfactory."[163] The commissioners published the tuition of each subject offered by the academy in the Gazette on October 2:

> Reading, Writing, and Arithmetic, 4 ₤ sterling per annum; English Grammar, Geography, Surveying, Navigation, 4 ₤ 15 s; Latin and Greek Languages, 5 ₤ 10 s. Payments to be made quarterly.[164]

The schoolhouse was located near King's Square, the largest town square, and was readily available to local youth. However, for those students attending from the surrounding country, accommodations in town were of great necessity. To meet this need, a resident of Sunbury opened a boardinghouse, where she advertised the price of boarding, "exclusive of Bedding, Washing, and Firewood" to be "15 ₤ sterling per annum."[165]

The Sunbury Academy continued to serve Liberty and its neighboring counties for many years following its opening. Various teachers headed the institution during its years of existence, but none was so famed and beloved as the Rev. William McWhir, D.D. [See Illustration 4.] Many have recorded the life story of this well-educated and deeply spiritual man, but perhaps none so completely as C.C. Jones, Jr., a son of one of McWhir's students:

> The teacher whose name is for the longest period and most notably associated with the management of this Academy, and who did more than all others to establish a standard of scholarship and maintain rules of study and discipline unusual in that period and among these peoples, was the Reverend Dr. William McWhir. Great was the obligation conferred upon the youths of Southern Georgia, for certainly two generations, by this competent instructor and rigid disciplinarian. A native of Ireland, a graduate of Belfast College, and licensed to preach by the Presbytery of that city, he came to America in 1783 and settled in Alexandria, Virginia. There, for ten years he was the Principal of the Academy of which General Washington was a trustee. He was frequently a guest at Mount Vernon, enjoying the hospitality of that noted mansion....
>
> About 1793 he removed to Sunbury where he became the Principal of the Academy and, for nearly thirty years, made it the leading



Wm. McWhir

*Illustration 4.*
*Engraving of the Reverend William McWhir*

> institution of learning in this entire region. A thorough Greek, Latin, and English scholar, an uncompromising observer of prescribed regulations, and a firm believer in the virtue of the birch as freely applied in those days in the English and Irish schools in which he had received his training, he was a terror to all dolts and delinquents. To the studious and the ambitious, he always proved himself a generous instructor, full of suggestion and encouragement. The higher branches of mathematics were also taught; and, as a preparatory school, this institution, under his guidance, had no superior within the limits of the State. The average attendance was about seventy ... Two generations sat at the feet of this venerable preceptor. Fathers and sons in turn responded to his nod, and feared his frown.
>
> For more than a Quarter of a century his numerous pupils found in him, above all others, their mentor, guide, and helper in the thorny paths of knowledge. Strongly did he impress his character and influence upon the generations in which he lived, and his name and acts are even now well remembered. The evening of his days was spent, as inclination prompted, at the residences of his old scholars, by whom a cordial welcome was always extended. That when accompanied by a generous supply of buttermilk and a good glass of wine. The latter might be dispensed with: a failure to provide the former was, in his eyes, an unpardonable breach of hospitality, and materially impaired the comfort of his sojourn, and the tranquility of the venerable guest.[166] [See Appendix C for a listing of students at the academy for 1807.]

Many of Sunbury's permanent residents were Congregationalist in their religious affiliations. Not wishing to travel miles each Sabbath to Midway Meetinghouse, these Sunbarians decided to form their own Congregationalist society. On March 8, 1790, the minister, selectmen, and other members of the "Congregational Society of Sunbury" petitioned the governor of Georgia to "incorporate our Society by Charter." Prior to that date, the society members had erected a meetinghouse in Sunbury and had "taken steps to form themselves into a religious society."[167] The Rev. Hitchcock, principal of the Sunbury Academy at the time, served as the society's first minister.[168] The society continued to hold active services for a few years, but on April 29, 1810, six members of the Sunbury church requested the Midway congregation to receive them as members in communion until their own church "became organized."[169] How long the Sunbury church remained in a state of disorganization

is not known, but no record has been found which would indicate the subsequent existence of a Congregational church in the town.

By far the largest church ever organized in Sunbury was the Baptist church, incorporated on December 4, 1810, with Charles O. Screven as pastor and Peter Winn, Jacob Durham, James Smith, and John Cuthbert as trustees.[170] This congregation still held worship services as late as 1830, but no located records indicate just when these services were terminated.[171] The army of General William T. Sherman burned the church in November of 1864, but by that time, the wooden building appears to have been abandoned.

During the later part of the 18th Century, Liberty County hummed with military activity, but none of it directly involved Sunbury. Beginning in 1788 and continuing for about five years, the Creek Indians in southern Georgia made a number of vicious raids against the Liberty County residents.[172] The accompanying atrocities aroused fear and anger in the town of Sunbury and the surrounding countryside, but the Indians inflicted the largest amount of actual damage on the inland portion of the county. After the end of the American Revolution, the cultural and religious life in Sunbury remained relatively undisturbed by any military activity until the commencement of the second war with Great Britain in 1812.

Chapter 6

"ERECTING A FORT IN THE TOWN OF SUNBURY"
1808 - 1816

Strong diplomatic differences between the United States and Great Britain developed during the Napoleonic Wars in Europe. In the years of these wars, the United States grew rich by shipping goods to both England and France, but the British Navy soon used its dominance of the high seas to stop this practice. British vessels imposed blockades on continental ports in 1806 and thereby disastrously effected American shipping. In the years that followed, tension grew between England and the United States as a result of British impressment of American seamen. These serious transgressions against United States commerce soon aroused anti-British feelings among many Americans, especially those in the South and West. The people of New England, who profited most from trade with England, generally opposed war, but strong expansionistic and chauvinistic desires from other areas of the country eventually dictated America's second declaration of war on Great Britain on June 18, 1812.[173]

For several years prior to the actual declaration, the United States War Department anticipated the outbreak of hostilities and began constructing coastal defenses to prepare America for war. In pursuit of this plan, the secretary of war dispatched orders on January 26, 1808, to U.S. Army engineer Alexander Macomb, working in Charleston, to remove to Georgia. There, he was to supervise measures for erecting an enclosed defense work at Savannah, a battery for four guns on Tybee Island, a similar battery at Point Peter in St. Marys, and a battery for two guns "at or near Sunbury."[174]

Macomb proceeded to Georgia as he was instructed, but after examining the area near Sunbury, he returned a negative report to the War Department:

November 1, 1808

Sunbury

On inspecting the Town and Vicinity of Sunbury I could not discover any one position that was advantageous for the Battery proposed in my instructions: Indeed the only proper defence is some heavy pieces mounted on travelling carriages, so as to enable the artillery to take such positions as might be best adapted to frustrate any attempts which an enemy's vessels might take for insulting or injuring the Town or its neighborhood. And I beg leave to offer, for the security of Sunbury the following defence, with which the Inhabitants have expressed a perfect satisfaction. Viz: Two eighteen pounders mounted in travelling carriages & two twelve pounders Mounted in like manner also one hundred stand of arms - One small arsenal to contain the arms and one powder magazine and an artillery shed: the whole to be inclosed with a wall to which might be added Barracks for 30 or 40 men.[175]

A statement communicated to Congress by the War Department on January 6, 1809, confirms that a small battery was to be constructed near Sunbury. However, as the statement further explained, no site had yet been obtained for the proposed work.[176]

Actually, the War Department took no further measures for the defense of Sunbury for three years. Then, on July 24, 1812, just a month after the United States declared war, Major Joseph Gardner Swift of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers notified Captain William McRee, an engineer in Savannah, to check again into Sunbury's needs:

Head Quarters Moultrie ville
24th July 1812

Sir,

It is desirable to Know what can be done for the Defense of Sunbury in Georgia. I wish you to communicate with some one at or near Sunbury and learn the number of Cannon and their calibre that may be at Sunbury, Could a small Battery be usefully positioned for the defense of the place, How large a work and materials necessary, what depth of water on the Bar, and is there any healthy position in the vacinity [sic] of Sunbury.

I am Respectually Sir Your Obt. Hum. Sert.

J.C. Swift
Maj. Engr. Aid

Captain William McRee
Savannah[177]

Captain McRee responded to Swift's request by consulting with John Elliott of Sunbury about the possibilities of defending the town. Within a month, he had decided upon his recommendations and reported to Swift, the new chief of the U.S. Engineers:

Savannah 16 August 1812

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 24 July ulto. I have had some conversations on the subject of your letter with a Mr. Elliot [sic] of Sunbury a gentleman of information and representative of that place in the State legislature. He informs me, the inhabitants are erecting two batteries and have two Mines, and some other pieces of smaller calibre either mounted or mounting -- but no ammunition.

The town is open to the sea from which it is about seven miles distant, it is the healthiest spot in its vicinity and is the resort of the neighboring planters during the sickly months -- It is situated on a sand bluff about 20 feet higher than the water & earth batteries may be erected in abundance and perfectly cheap. If fixed or permanent works must be built, two at least are necessary one at each end of the town; as a vessel that could succeed in approaching would be at liberty to lay secure from the fire of any single battery.

I recollect a small hammock or island between the town and bar -- which Col. Macomb and myself examined in 1808 and found to have an excellent command of the channel which is here very narrow -- But as a site for an open battery -- the objection against it is conclusive. It has only a water communication with the main land and is quite beyond the reach of either protection or support.

For the maritime defense -- when circumstances will attend their use -- I am decidedly in favor of the use of heavy artillery on travelling carriages to be protected [by] earth epaulments at the different proper points of action: and I am acquainted with no plan uniting advantages better calculated to ensure success to this description of defence than Sunbury....

W. McRee

Maj. J.G. Swift
Comdg. Sr Dft.[178]

Major Swift reacted quickly to Captain McRee's recommendations. He employed the services of Isidore Stouf of Savannah, a knowledgeable engineer for his day, and commissioned him to ascertain the best means for defending the harbor of Sunbury. Stouf submitted his plan almost immediately to the engineering chief, and Swift replied to Stouf on August 31 that his "plan of Sunbury harbour & report of necessary work for its defence had been duly received & will be taken into consideration."[179] From all that can be learned, Swift intended to fortify Sunbury to some extent, but he never followed through on either McRee's suggestions or Stouf's plans.

This puzzling situation is partially explained by a letter written on November 28, 1812, to Swift by Maj. Gen. Thomas Pinckney of Charleston, commander of the Southern Division of the U.S. Army. It was Pinckney's opinion that the extensive stretch of country between Savannah -- the northernmost city on Georgia's coast -- and St. Marys -- the southernmost city in Georgia -- should be protected from possible British attack by at least one defense work. But since Sunbury did not "equally divide the distance," the general felt that a fort at Darien would better solve the problem.[180] His idea superseded any plans Swift might have had to provide Sunbury with a defense work.

The most important protection ever afforded Sunbury during the early years of the war was the presence of six armed barges in the Medway River in the latter part of 1812. On July 28 of that year, Pinckney mentioned in a letter to the secretary of war that these barges had been ordered from Charleston to Sunbury.[181] Sunbury resident John Stevens recorded years later in his memoirs that their unexpected arrival produced considerable commotion among the inhabitants.[182] According to Stevens, the British

frigate Lacedemonian was anchored off Cumberland Island at the time, and the coastal residents often saw its barges in St. Catherines Sound, where they occasionally captured and burned American coastal vessels. Therefore, as the six unidentified American barges from Charleston neared Sunbury, the citizens concluded they were being attacked by the British. Stevens provided an excellent description of the resulting confusion:

> The citizens of the place some of them had their valuables hid in the woods back of the Old Presbyterian Church, and a few others took to flight, one family never returned until the war was over. The Honble John A. Cuthbert in command of the citizens formed a line on the Bluff, & on his right the larger scholars under the command of Charles Floyd. The barges came to anchor in the front river, (just outside the old wreck), when at a given signal the "American Jack" was run up at masthead by each barge. Such cheering & shouting you have never heard before in all your life.
>
> These barges continued to guard the place for six months, it was a beautiful sight of a clear day to see them sailing down to the sound and back again. They were anchored at night opposite of each wharf, and every hour would pass down the watch word "Alls Well." It was very cheering & inspiring to the youthful minds.[183]

The presence of American naval officers and seamen in Sunbury for six months kept the little village in turmoil, as evidenced by a story later told by Stevens, just a young boy at the time:

> One afternoon when I was along with some of the boys & girls gathering jessamins [jasmine] in the woods back of the Old Church, we heard the report of pistols in quick succession, in coming out to see what was the matter we found one man lying on his back and the other standing over him. It proved to be Bush & Jones, the two highest officers in command of the barges, they had quarreled over their cups and had come out there behind the church to settle it in a duel. Bush was shot in the thigh; the Citizens hearing of it came out and had him conveyed on one of the doors of the church to their head quarters, in a building under the Bluff. Jones went in the next morning to see Bush when he fired at him on his entrance into the room (he had his pistol concealed in his bed) the ball passing just a few inches over his head. Bush I understand survived until after the war, and eventually died from the effects of the wound. Jones died in the Marine service of the U.S. whilst on a cruise in the Mediteranean Sea.[184]

The departure of the gunboats from Sunbury left the town without any direct protection. Another incident recorded by Stevens confirms that the town residents still feared a British attack:

> One day ... a schooner was noticed approaching the village pursued by a sloop. The citizens were again thrown into consternation, and the school dismissed. The old Customhouse boat, 'Trickum,' was launched, and John Webb with some others went to see what was the matter, (both vessels had grounded within a few hundred yards of each other). It proved that the schooner had mistaken the sloop for a British barge and she was making for port. They were both trading vessels.[185]

John Stevens was not the only Sunbury resident who wrote down his memories of the War of 1812. The Rev. Jesse Campbell, a son of Jesse Campbell of Colonels Island, was likewise a young boy at the time of the war. His "Reminiscences of the War of 1812" were printed in the Macon Telegraph and Messenger in 1873 and tell vividly of the dangers of British interference in coastal trading:

> It was by no means an uncommon occurrance [sic] to see American vessels on fire in the waters just below us. Small yankee crafts, sloops, and schooners, carried on a coast trade between Savannah and Saint Augustine, (the latter being a neutral fort), which were frequently caught by British barges, sent in from large vessels lying off the coast, and containing twenty-five men each. They were so constructed as to navigate our shallowest streams, especially at high tide. On the approach of a barge, the yankee sailors, seldom over six to eight to a vessel, and unarmed, would almost invariably take to their small boats, and leave their vessels a prey to their enemies. The writer has a distinct recollection of having seen three vessels one afternoon on fire in St. Catherine's Sound. The sailors made good their escape by landing at Waldburg's place on that Island.
>
> Sometimes the British 'caught a tartar.' A certain Captain Hall, commanding a small schooner, made quite a hero of himself by fighting off two barges with a force of ten or a dozen men. Mr. Nat. Law of Liberty county, had dispatched his private boat to St. Augustine in charge of a Mr. Stetson for family and neighborhood supplies, which, on its return, was captured by the British and taken in tow -- Stetson and his negro crew escaping into a hammock

not far from the residence of Col. Dubignon, below Brunswick. Hall came sailing along soon thereafter, ignorant of the proximity of the enemy, and seeing Stetson and his able crew in distress, took them on board. It being low tide, the barges had hid behind a point of marsh, and were waiting for him. On discovering them, he crowded all sail -- ran his little craft aground at Dubignon's landing, and all on board took to their heels incontinently. So the British thought at least. Hall and Stetson, however, with four or five sailors belonging to the little schooner, joined by Dubignon and his sons, in ambush on the bluff, all armed with shot-guns, calmly waited the approach of the barges. They didn't have to wait long, for in twenty minutes they turned a point of marsh and came bearing down upon their prize. Those on the bluff retained their ammunition till the British were in point-blank range, when they opened a most destructive fire upon them. One third of those in the open barges were either killed or wounded at the first volley. One of the barges was soon in a sinking condition -- the survivors scrambled into that which was yet afloat; and casting loose Stetson's boat (its valuable freight untouched) made good their escape.

Many a time, in my childhood, have I handled the gun with which Stetson fought on that occasion. It was the longest and largest bored firelock I ever saw, and its ordinary charge was a musket ball and fifteen buckshot. Such a weapon, in the hands of such a young giant as Stetson was, at short range, must have done fearful execution. Hall's party escaped unharmed....

Our people on the coast were subjected to many privations and much suffering. Coffee was a luxury in which the old people indulged once a week -- of Sunday morning -- the young abstaining altogether ... Our family supplies -- such as they were -- were obtained from the Yankee coasting vessels already alluded to, they, in turn, purchasing their stocks at St. Augustine. I have often seen my father give a fat shoat, of 75 or 100 pounds weight, for a bushel of rock salt, or alum salt as it was then called.[186]

Throughout most of 1813 and the early part of 1814, the United States made no further plans to defend Sunbury. Talk and correspondence continued at a rapid rate among the military and political figures who had authority over Georgia, but actions to fortify the southern areas of the seaboard adequately never seemed to back up the words. Actually, Georgia and the entire Southern Division expended most of its manpower and money during these two years of the war in a massive campaign against the Creek Indians. While

Georgia's armies battled in Alabama and Mississippi, her coastal residents grew more fearful of a British attack on their relatively undefended cities.

In March and June of 1813, Georgia Governor David B. Mitchell pleaded with Maj. Gen. John McIntosh, commander of Georgia's coastal troops, to distribute the few United States troops stationed on the seaboard.[187] General Pinckney had ordered the majority of the troops still in Georgia to mass in St. Marys and guard against any British thrust into the state through Florida; the governor suggested that half of these could remain concentrated at Point Peter in St. Marys, while "the other half might be distributed in such detachments along our Sea Coast as would give some security to the inhabitants, and serve as a rallying point for our militia."[188]

In apparent compliance with the governor's requests, General Pinckney sent reinforcements to Sunbury and posted a detachment of troops under a Captain Warley there during the summer and fall of 1813. In his memoirs, John Stevens mentioned the arrival of Captain Warley's company in the town. They came in two vessels from Point Peter in St. Marys, he said, and,

> ... on the landing of the company at Carters Wharf, the school boys were all there, and perfectly delighted. Capt. Warley had the company formed in line, with two drummers & fifers ahead, when they struck up:
>
> Dont you hear what your Captain say,
> Strike your tent and march away.
>
> This is the way the school boys interpreted it. They then marched to an old Yellow house near the fort and pitched their tents around it.
>
> The smallpox broke out at the barracks soon after the arrival of the company, and the old drummer (Hutcheson) and several others died with it. There was a general vaccination among the citizens at this time, myself among the number.[189]

Because of the smallpox epidemic, the Sunbury detachment requested and received permission to depart in October.[190] Early the next year, another

detachment of troops, under the command of Major Robert Bowling, was mustered from the state militia into active United States service and ordered by General Pinckney to Sunbury. This second detachment consisted of approximately 200 soldiers from Burke, Chatham, Effingham, and Screven counties, who arrived in Sunbury with two wagons of baggage on April 12, 1814. On April 27, Major Bowling wrote to Lt. Col. Edward Harden in Savannah, commander of the Thirty-Fifth Regiment of Georgia Militia, and requested Harden to send him a captain and 52 more privates to make a full company. Major Bowling also requested the captain to bring "camp utensils, to cook in," for the detachment had found none upon their arrival in the town.[191]

Colonel Harden complied with these requests as far as possible, but as late as June of that year, Major Bowling still reported a deficiency of men in his company. Unfortunately, the militia troops sent to the Georgia seaboard were only required to serve a six-month term of duty. Bowling's detachment, first ordered into service in February, disbanded about September of 1814, which once again left no federal troops along much of Georgia's coast.[192]

From the beginning of the war, the inhabitants of Liberty County relied primarily on their own resources for continual protection. In 1812, the Liberty Countians appointed a committee of five influential citizens to plan measures for the defense of the county.[193] This citizens' organization worked through the state legislature and other political organizations to secure and regulate aid for the county. Additionally, the county's militia and volunteer companies remained efficiently organized in the years following the Revolution, and they provided much security to the inhabitants of the surrounding area during the periods when no federal protection was supplied.

At various times during the course of the war, these companies of troops even stationed themselves in Sunbury, where, according to John Stevens, they greatly enlivened "the old village."[194]

Nevertheless, a citizens' organization and a collection of militia troops, no matter how well-organized and efficient, were no match for the British Army, should it choose to invade. The people of Liberty County realized their vulnerability and feared the consequences. After the withdrawal of the federalized company of Georgia militia in the late summer of 1814, the citizens decided they had waited long enough for federal assistance which never came. If they were ever to see their county and port city defended, they themselves would have to build the defense works and furnish the garrisons.

In the final months of 1814, Liberty County went into action. The citizens met in Riceboro in September and appointed John Elliott, William Fleming, Joseph Law, John Stacy, John Stevens, Daniel Stewart, and John Wing to be a committee "to sit monthly for the purpose of taking into consideration the state of the county."[195] This committee, styled the "Committee of Safety," was authorized to "call upon the inhabitants of the county for so much labors as appeared to them necessary to put the county in a state of defence." On behalf of the committee, Elliott wrote General Pinckney and announced the committee's willingness "to repair, at the expense of the county, the fortifications in Sunbury, and to garrison the town." However, Elliott requested the assistance of an engineer and the donation of two 18-pounders and a supply of ammunition.[196] Fortunately, the general approved of the affirmative actions of the committee and reacted agreeably to its demands. In compliance with the request for an engineer, he had his secretary dispatch the following letter to a U.S. Army engineer stationed in Savannah:

Charleston 4th Octr 1814

Sir

A communication has been received by the General from J. Elliott in behalf of a Committee from Liberty County who propose to rebuild the Fort at Sunbury and apply for the Assistance of an Engineer. I am commanded to direct that as soon as you receive information from the Committee that they are prepared to proceed to Sunbury to lay out the work, or to send a competent agent (which the Genl authorised [sic] you to procure) for that purpose.

Lieut. Smith
U.S. Engineers Sava Ga. [197]

General Pinckney also corresponded with Captain Massias, commander of the First Rifle Regiment at St. Marys, concerning the transportation of some cannon from Point Peter to Sunbury.[198] In a letter of November 19, 1814, Pinckney's secretary instructed Captain Massias to send five nine-pounders and several 32-pounders to Savannah and to drop off two nine-pounders in Sunbury; Massias complied accordingly.[199] On October 11 of that year, General Pinckney wrote to the new Georgia governor, Peter Early, requesting that a company of artillery be marched to Sunbury. This gesture presents further evidence of Pinckney's willingness to aid the industrious residents of Liberty County in their defense effort. Governor Early replied to the general on October 27 and promised him that the request would "be complied with speedily."[200] True to his word, on November 7, the governor ordered a Hancock County artillery company commanded by Captain James Hamilton to march toward Sunbury.[201]

Sometime in October of 1814, Pinckney met with the Committee of Safety at Midway Church to discuss the possibilities for defending Sunbury. Pinckney suggested that the citizens construct a tower instead of a fort, but the committee members ruled the tower impractical because of the difficulty of obtaining materials and voted to proceed with the building of a fort. Under the direction of the Committee of Safety and the U.S. Army engineer from

Savannah, work on the Sunbury fort progressed rapidly. According to Stevens' memoirs, "the citizens, or rather the planters of the county were called upon to send a certain portion of their male slaves to work upon the 'Old Fort' and put it in thorough repair...."[202] The Rev. Jesse Campbell stated in his "Recollections" that his "father was engaged in superintending the construction of the fort at Sunbury, (riding to the town on horseback daily [from Colonels Island], and returning to his home at night), which was designed to protect that place from an attack by water."[203]

General Pinckney realized the need to mount the two cannon sent to Sunbury, and on December 28 his secretary instructed the Savannah ordnance officer to order the cannon mounted at the expense of the federal government.[204] The ordnance officer promptly attended to the matter, for Stevens recalled the cannon carriages passing his father's plantation. They were built, according to Stevens, by "Jonathan Gaulden on Taylor's Creek."[205]

General Pinckney and the other officers in the Southern Division appear to have done everything within their power and budgets for the benefit of the new Sunbury fort. With two mounted cannon, a company of artillery, and the advice of a U.S. Army engineer, the Sunbury residents could have hoped for no greater cooperation with their efforts for defense. In fact, the only real opposition that the Liberty County Committee of Safety encountered was from the state government.

In November of 1814, the Georgia Legislature passed a bill which appropriated $45,000 "for the purpose of fortifying the city of Savannah, the city of St. Mary's, and the several inlets between the said cities."[206] In order to carry out this project, the legislature appointed a committee of advisors and commissioners for each coastal county; they chose the

previously appointed Committee of Safety members to serve for Liberty County.[207] The Liberty Countians were no doubt pleased at the prospect of receiving state funds to finish their fort at Sunbury -- but little did they anticipate the reaction of the governor to this bill. The legislative members spoke of fortifying the "several inlets" between Savannah and St. Marys, which Governor proposed to do by constructing forts on the outer islands along Georgia's coast rather than by fortifying the coastal towns.

The commissioners for Bryan County, located between Chatham and Liberty counties, reacted first to this ridiculous idea with a letter of strong disapproval:

> Bryan County 2nd Jany 1815
>
> His Excellency Peter Early
> Sir
>
> As we are of the opinion it would not add in the smalest [sic] degree to the Security of the County or any Section of the Seaboard to erect a block house on the Island of Ossabaw, we shall decline acting as Commissioners to build on that spot. If it was to be erected at Hardwick on the Main where some benefit might be calculated from it we would chearfully [sic] attend to it, as we know it to be the general impression of the County that no advantage can possibly result from building on the Island it is not in our power to recommend to your Excellency Any Names to Substitute our places. If we were of the opinion it would be of the utmost Utility to erect it on the Island we should consider the risque [sic] of imploying [sic] negroes their [there] so great that not a Man would send One unless a guard of at least fifty Men were placed with them from the Commencement as it is reasonable to suppose a work of the kind would imediately [sic] draw the Attention of the ships on the coast, and no doubt would have a tendency to induce them to commit much greater depredations on the Island that what they have heretofore. Should you think proper to Authorise [sic] us to purchase two small cannon with Suitable Amunition [sic] to be placed at Hardwick [on the Ogeechee River, county seat of Bryan County] it would no doubt aid us Materially to repel the Approach of Barges or small Vessels.
>
> We are your Excellencys very obt Servents [sic]
>
> Jno Pray
> Geo: M. Waters
> Lee Blacksell[208]

The Liberty County Committee of Safety also reacted to the governor's proposals. Enraged and hurt that the governor had not even acknowledged the work being undertaken by the residents to fortify Sunbury, the chairman of the Committee of Safety wrote him the following letter. Fortunately for researchers, this invaluable letter has been preserved, for it provides an excellent description of the defense works built in the town during the War of 1812.

Liberty County 10th Jany 1815

His Excellent Govr Early
Sir

Your Secty's letter with a blank bond enclosed has been duly received. Permit me, Sir, to inform your Excellency, as I am directed by the Gentlemen named therein, that we deem it almost impracticable to Erect a post of defence on the Island, as contemplated by the Legislature at this time from the proximity of the Enemy. The Committee of Safety has undertook a laborious task in Erecting a fort in the Town of Sunbury, and when its [sic] completed will be of more Utility & answer full as well (if not better) than a block House on the Island: Coasters in case of emergency can run under her guns for protection and at the same time be in a good Port, Harbour, whereas near the Island there is no safe port and Vessels would be subjected and liable to be enjured [sic] by tempestious [sic] weather. We are willing to Sign & Execute the bond, If your Excellencys are of opinon we might apply part of this money to the finishing this fortification in Sunbury. The next legislature can sanction it, Especially when they find their object has been Effected.

I say part, because we are persuaded five hundred dollars will be sufficant [sic], as the fort now is in considerable forwardness, the Parapit [sic], Berme, Moat, Revetments, Palisades, &c; are all nearly done. Thus far, the work has been carried on by the labour of our County voluntirely [sic] contributed; the Bastions, Gates, Barracks, Magazines & together with the purchasing Nails and other Iron materials will require Money, and we shall be at a loss unless the State will let us have the money as already mentioned, for our Slaves cannot do, or carry on the work much further, workmen must be employed for this purpose.

General Pinckney has given the Committee every assurence [sic] that the necessary Guns and Military Stores &c &c shall be furnished, two are already mounted on carriages & on the spot. You will Greatly oblige the Committee by droping [sic] us a line on the subject by Mail, soon as convenient. I have the honour to be yr Excellency Mo. obt Hl Servt

Dl. Stewart
Chairman to the Commt. of Safety
of L. County[209]

Governor Early never responded in writing to either of the two committees' letters, and neither the legislature nor the governor took further action to use the appropriated $45,000 for any coastal fortifications -- either in Sunbury and Hardwick or on the nearby islands. This negligence can be readily explained by the many other problems that occuped the governor's mind shortly after he had received these letters. In the middle of January of 1815, British naval forces under Rear Admiral George Cockburn landed on Cumberland Island and then sailed into St. Marys, where they captured and burned both the fort and the town. Then the destructive troops marched on toward the Altamaha River, plundering and burning as they went.[210]

United States troops from Savannah, Sunbury, and western Georgia were ordered immediately to Darien, where they planned a massive attempt to stop the British. However, Great Britain and the United States had signed a treaty at Ghent, Belgium, on December 24, 1814, and when news of the declared peace reached the marching British troops in early February, they reversed their direction and retreated to their ships at St. Marys. On February 6, General Pinckney's aide-de-camp issued orders for redistribution to the southern forces massed at Darien, which included an order for Captain James Hamilton's company of artillery to "resume their command at Sunbury, taking with them the artillery belonging to that place...."[211] How long this company remained in Sunbury cannot be determined from presently-available records, but since the seaboard was no longer threatened, it undoubtedly disbanded or moved elsewhere within the next few months.

After the threat of a British invasion passed, the Liberty County citizens set out again to complete the new fort at Sunbury, which they styled "Fort Defiance."[212] In a short period of time, they did finish most of the

earthworks, but with no funds, they could not proceed with the construction of a magazine or barracks.

On March 8, 1815, Brig. Gen. Joseph Swift, still the chief of the U.S. Army Engineers, issued the following orders to Lieutenant James Gadsden in an effort to evaluate the post-war state of Georgia's coastal fortifications:

> Brooklyn, L.I.
> 8th March 1815
>
> Sir,
> You will repair to Charleston & Beaufort So Carolina, to Savannah, Sunbury & St. Marys Geo & examine the state of the Fortifications at or near those places, & also examine such positions as in your opinion it may be necessary to occupy with Permanent Works of Defence for the above mentioned places & the approaches to them. You will as soon as practicable make full Report to me on the above, including such restorations and alterations as in your judgment are required to render the Fortifications permamently useful with estimates of the costs ....
>
> I am with much Respect Your M. Hum. St.
>
> J.G. Swift B.G.
>
> Lieut. Gadsen
> N.V. Engr A.D.C.[213]

Gadsen's reply the following June provides a clear and informative description of the town of Sunbury and its new fort:

> Charleston, So Carolina
> June 1, 1815
>
> Sir,
> Pursuant to your order of March 1815 I have visited Charleston & Beaufort in South Carolina, and Savannah, Sunbury, and St. Marys in Georgia; have examined the several Fortifications at or near those places, and now report their condition, and also such additional defences as are deemed necessary to be constructed....
>
> SUNBURY. The situation and importance is not such as would warrant the recommendation of expensive fortifications. As a Town it is only the resort of the neighbouring Inhabitants in quest of health during the sickly season of the year. It is not commercial, therefore it cannot excite the cupidity of an Enemy; but as it possesses a safe, and deep harbor; admitting of nineteen feet water on the bar, it may in this account be necessary to secure

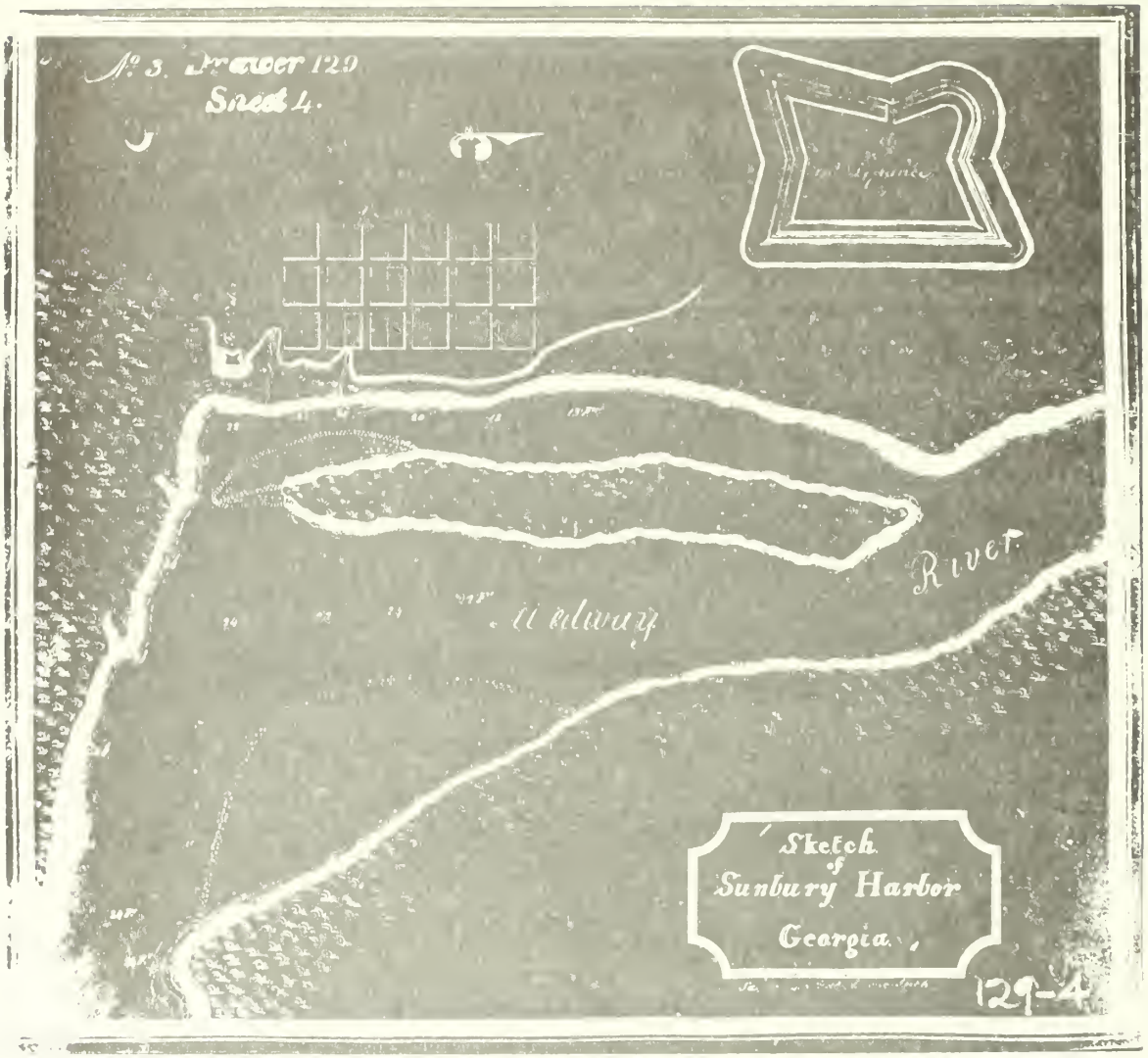



Illustration . . .
plan of the Sunbury Harbor,
showing the location of Fort Defiance, 1815

it. By the voluntary labor of the neighboring planters, a work has been commenced the last fall and very nearly completed on the return of peace. It stands on a commanding position enfilading the channel surrounded on two sides by a marsh in the third by a ravine, and approachable by a land force in the rear only. I would recommend that it be completed and its profile strengthened by widening and deepening the ditch and forming with earth a high glacis.

Its figure is irregular, (an attempt at a star Fort) and though not approved of, yet as the fort is so near being completed any additional strength gained by an alteration of its form, would hardly warrant the consequent increase of expence, -- such an alteration would not only render it necessary to build a new work, but to fill up the ditch, and level the parapets of the old one. This Fort with six heavy pieces of ordnance and two field pieces will effectually secure force until relieved by reinforcements. It would also serve to protect the planters on the Medway River from the predatory visit of barges and may be a rallying point in time of alarm for the Militia of Liberty County ...

For a more full explanation and a better comprehension of this Report you are referred to the accompanying sketches. That of Charleston Harbor has been enlarged, That of Sunbury reduced, & that of Savannah copied from three old plans I accidentally met with.... [See Illustration 5.]

With Respect Yours &c

James Gadsen
Lt Engineers

Gen. J.G. Swift[214]

In pursuance of Lieutenant Gadsen's suggestion, the Sunbury citizens appear to have constructed a high glacis or earthen bank immediately outside the ditch, around their fort on three sides; this feature is evident in the earthwork existing today just south of Sunbury. No further construction, however, was ever accomplished.

On January 20, 1816, General Swift listed the "Fort at Sunbury" on a report submitted to the secretary of war as a site whose jurisdiction "should be vested in the United States."[215] But other than this casual mention of the fort, no one in Sunbury or the federal government seems to have ever

noticed or acknowledged its existence subsequent to 1815. The earthwork that the local citizens struggled so hard to erect was abandoned and forgotten within a few months after its completion.

# Chapter 7

## "THE DESERTED VILLAGE"
## 1816 - 1864

Sunbury continued to serve as a cultural center for Liberty County for several years following the War of 1812. Social events were abundant and varied, and life in the small village still held attractions for residents. Perhaps the best panorama of Sunbury's latter years is revealed in the correspondence of its residents and visitors, some of which has fortunately survived. [See Appendix D for a series of extracts from the letters of the Alexander family of Sunbury, as well as a few letters concerning the Rev. McWhir and his wife.]

During and after the 1820s, a number of factors contributed to a drastic decline in Sunbury's population. Beginning in the 1780s, first one inland town and then another sprang up in Liberty County and drew residents away from the coast. Yet for many years these former residents continued to use Sunbury as their summer home. Then, in time, other summer retreats replaced it -- Dorchester, Flemington, Hinesville, Jonesville, and Walthourville. The all-powerful railroad later passed through many of these newer towns, and the lack of convenient rail transportation to Sunbury proved a further deterrent to the town's prosperity.[217] The gradual transition from rice to sea-island cotton as the major crop grown in the coastal area also resulted in the further decline of Sunbury's population. The lower, swampy regions on or adjacent to the coast were totally useless except as rice fields, and with cotton as "king," the residents moved further west to higher ground. The biggest single destructive force that Sunbury suffered, however, was the hurricane of

1824.[218] Although only chimneys, outbuildings, and palings were blown down in the town proper, the hurricane damaged beyond repair many of the plantations of Midway Neck and Colonels Island.[219]

One of Sunbury's last links with its past popularity was the Fourth of July celebration held there every year by the Liberty County Independent Troop. C.C. Jones, Jr., described this day as the "event of the year in that quiet community," which the town celebrated with military exercises, a public dinner, and patriotic speeches. Nevertheless, even this welcome diversion was discontinued in 1833.[220]

In 1829, Sherwood's Gazetteer described Sunbury as having "a flourishing academy, a house of worship for the Baptists, twenty dwelling houses, two stores, three offices, and a population of one hundred and fifty."[221] On April 24, 1841, the Sunbury post office finally closed, and by 1855, the town had shrunk to pitiful proportions. The Rev. George White described the village in his Historical Collections published that year: "Sunbury is now almost deserted, being inhabited by not more than six or eight families."[222] A few of these clung to their native homes until the War Between the States, but the tragic economic difficulties which followed snuffed out the last traces of life in Sunbury.

During the years of the Confederacy, a few troops were periodically posted in or near Sunbury. In late June of 1861, a corps of mounted rifles under the command of Captain Charles A.L. Lamar, encamped in the town and set up a picket post. William Hughes of Taylor's Creek, commander of the Liberty Guards, wrote the governor: "The citizens of our county contemplate reprais-ing and putting in good order the Sunbury Fort though I consider it not neces-sary to have it garrisoned, at present, as the Batteries on St. Catherines

Island, command the entrance to the River...."[223] Shortly after their arrival, Mrs. Mary Jones, the mother of C.C. Jones, Jr., who resided on Colonels Island at that time, wrote to her son in Savannah and described the scene:

> Our Confederate flag now floats in the Atlantic breeze upon the bay in Sunbury, and 'the deserted village' presents a novel sight; white tents upon the plain, all the military arrangements of camp life, officers in command, soldiers on duty, horses ready for service. Two eight-pounders have been taken from the old fort in perfect preservation. They ring like bell metal, and are said to be French pieces. Captain Lamar intends to have them mounted ....[224]

The two eight-pound cannon which Mrs. Jones mentioned were undoubtedly the two sent to Sunbury from St. Marys in November of 1814. As far as is determinable, these guns were the only ones ever placed in Fort Defiance from the time of its construction until the War Between the States.[225]

In August of 1861, the Liberty Independent Troop joined the Lamar Mounted Rifles in Sunbury, where they both remained until November, when the troop was ordered inland to Riceboro. The month before, the Lamar Rifles had also left Sunbury for McIntosh County, immediately south of Liberty County.[226] A small number of cavalry troops were posted south of Sunbury in 1863, but not until the fall of 1864 were Confederate troops again stationed in the town. By this time, General William T. Sherman had captured Atlanta, and his troops were marching toward Savannah, spreading fire and destruction in their path. The Twenty-Ninth Battalion of Georgia Cavalry was ordered to Liberty County to defend it against the Union troops should they venture that far south.[227] In Dorchester, Flemington, Riceboro, and Sunbury, they set up camps and waited.

In early December of 1864, General Judson Kilpatrick, who was commanding

two divisions of cavalry in General Sherman's army, swept into Liberty County and quickly overran the ineffective Confederate defenses. On December 13, the Third and Fifth Kentucky cavalries of 500 men, under command of Oliver L. Baldwin, marched toward Sunbury.[228] One of the last Sunbury residents, only a small lad at the time, wrote many years later of the town's capture by Federal troops:

> The Northern troops surprised the town and the Southern soldiers who were camping at Dorchester and doing picket duty around Midway, Dorchester, Sunbury and all along the coast of Liberty county. The most were on duty on the coast, as they thought the Northern forces would come by boat.
>
> The Yankees got a few of our men who were on picket duty; one being my stepfather, J.A. Rowe. He was on duty just three miles from Sunbury when the Yankees captured him. They brought him to Sunbury. They let him stay at home but kept guards in the house all the time.
>
> I was a little boy at the time but I remember that soon after the troops arrived at Sunbury some of the men came to my stepfather's home and I was out in the yard when one of the men said to me, 'Johnnie, give me a piece of fire.' I gave it to him, thinking they wanted it to cook with. Soon as I gave it to them them started to the church. Child-like, I wondered where they were going to build the fire, as I knew the church had no chimney. I followed them to the church. They took rails from a fence and built the fire under the stair steps in the church. Soon the church was blazing.
>
> I didn't know why they were burning the church, until later I heard the guards that were guarding my stepfather say they hated to burn the church, but they had promised Sherman they would burn a building as soon as they reached Sunbury as a signal to the Northern gunboats which were anchored out in St. Catherine's sound waiting for a signal from the land forces to come in, as they would have been unable to take the town without the help of land forces.
>
> The Yankee troops reached Sunbury about 2 p.m. and before 4 p.m. they had the church on fire. Next morning the gunboats came up into the Sunbury harbor and took the town.
>
> The town was well fortified with heavy breastworks and could not have been taken without the help of the land forces.[229]

Exactly what the author of the above article had in mind by "heavy breastworks" cannot be determined readily. Perhaps a number of rifle pits and some entrenchments around the central town bluff were the extent of Sunbury's "breastworks" during the War Between the States. In light of present evidence, this suggested explanation is the most plausible description of the town defenses. If the Confederates had fortified only the central area of the small village, those defense works would probably have been destroyed in the early 20th Century, when the site of Sunbury was frequently farmed. In the outlying areas of Sunbury, which were not farmed, no breastworks surviving from the War Between the States have yet been discovered. It can be stated with relative certainty that the remains of Fort Defiance were never used during the War Between the States as a fort. While it is possible that the old fort was briefly garrisoned as a picket post during 1861 or 1864, this limited use would not have greatly altered the appearance or integrity of the War of 1812 earthwork.

Today, Sunbury consists of a few modern houses, dirt streets, and vacant lots. Surrounding the town are cleared fields, the scattered homes of a newly developed residential area, and acres of dense forest with jungle-like growth. Only the fort just south of the town, the old cemetery, and a few historic markers serve to remind the casual visitor of Sunbury's long history. But the visitor more attuned to the early history of the state can envision the picturesque town that once flourished along the Medway, with moss-hung live oaks, neatly painted wooden houses, children playing in the town square, and small merchant ships anchored at the busy docks. This visitor can almost feel the presence of people who once walked the vanished streets, among them the many great figures in history who helped to make

Georgia what it is today.

Upon visiting Sunbury in 1878, Charles C. Jones, Jr., was inspired to write these words, which might also describe modern Sunbury:

> The same bold bluff, the same broad expanse of marshes stretching onward to the confines of the broad Atlantic shore -- the same sea-washed beach of St. Catherines, -- the same green island dividing the river as it ebbs and flows with ever restless tide, -- the same soft sea-breezes, -- the same bright skies, -- the same sweet voices and tranquil scene which nature gave and still perpetuates, -- but all else how changed![230]

# SECTION II

# DEEPER DELVINGS

# Chapter 1

# "THE FORT"

The military history of the town of Sunbury may be conveniently classified into four periods: Colonial, Revolutionary, War of 1812, and War Between the States. The defense works existing in Sunbury during each of these periods have been described in Section I of this report in a chronological fashion and in some detail; however, for purposes of clarification and summarization, the following outline is provided:

## Colonial

Construction on the first defense works in Sunbury began on September 20, 1756, in order to protect the Midway District from the threat of Indian attacks. Whether or not this work was ever completed is not known. On July 11, 1757, the Midway inhabitants constructed a battery for eight guns in Sunbury, which was still in use in May of the following year. The battery was repaired and enlarged into a "good Logg Fort" in 1760. This stockade fort had fallen down by November of 1762, but four of its guns were still "on the bay at Sunbury." When the fort's deterioration was reported to the Georgia Commons House in Savannah, its members appropriated funds for three more guns to be sent to the town.

The exact location of the colonial battery defense work in Sunbury is presently unknown. In a defense report made by Governor James Wright in 1773, no mention was made of any defenses at Sunbury, which strongly suggests that all of the various wooden fortifications built prior to that time had either collapsed or been destroyed or removed.

## Revolutionary

The minutes of the Georgia Council of Safety for June 7, 1776, contain the first mention of defense works in Sunbury during the Revolution. On that day, Colonel John Baker was ordered to finish the entrenchments about the town. The Council members again gave orders on July 30, 1776, for a battery to be built in the town; again, on December 11 of that year, they ordered the construction of "a battery and other public works in Sunbury." On March 25, 1778, the Council ordered the battery and other works in Sunbury to be completed, which proves that the defense works were still in an unfinished condition at that time.

Some time between March and November of 1778, construction on the actual Revolutionary fort at Sunbury probably began; however, construction of this fort was apparently never completed, for after General Prevost had captured Sunbury in January of 1779, General Howe still described the fort as "a work too extensive for five times the number of men, ill-constructed, unfinished, without casemates...." Howe probably exaggerated in his estimate of men necessary to man the fort, or perhaps he included the entire Sunbury defense works (i.e., included the outer entrenchments) as part of Sunbury's "fort." Certainly this outer works was never manned during the two Sunbury attacks because of the acute shortage of manpower. The accounts of the January of 1779 attack on Sunbury affirm that the town's fort at least had parapets, a magazine, and a barrack with two wings.

After the British gained control of the town, they made necessary repairs on the damaged defense works but were ordered to "dismantle the fort" in October of 1779, when they evacuated the town. The fort was still used subsequent to that date, but the lack of an able British garrison in Sunbury

probably prevented any reconstruction work from being carried out. In a raid by the British galley Arbuthnot against Sunbury in 1782, much of the town seems to have been burned, and any remaining guns or wooden portions of the fort were probably destroyed at that time. The Revolutionary fort in Sunbury was often termed "Fort Morris" by the Americans and officially named "Fort George" by the British.

The primary problem that the present researcher has faced in relation to the Revolutionary fort in Sunbury concerns the exact location of the structure and its surrounding entrenchments.

## War of 1812

In light of the "Daniel Stewart letter" Footnote 209 - the "James Gadsen letter" [Footnote 214], and the map of Fort Defiance accompanying the Gadsen letter [Illustration 5], there can be no question but that the salient earthwork located south of the site of Sunbury, and erroneously known to many local residents as Fort Morris, is, in actuality, the fortification which the citizens of Liberty County erected in 1814 and 1815 for the defense of their port city.

Unfortunately, several statements concerning the initial construction of Fort Defiance have produced a major conflict. When John Elliott of the Liberty County Committee of Safety wrote General Thomas Pinckney in October of 1814 of their plans to fortify Sunbury, Elliott spoke of wanting to "repair the [Revolutionary] fortifications." Years later, former Sunbury resident John Stevens recorded that during the War of 1812, "the planters of the county were called upon to send a certain portion of their male salves to work upon the 'Old Fort' and put it in thorough repair...." Although no other known sources indicate that Fort Defiance was in any way a

reconstruction of the Revolutionary Fort Morris, these two unqualified remarks immediately pose a question about the construction of the later fort.

War Between the States

During this war, very little in the way of fortifications was built in Sunbury. In fact, the only indication that defenses ever existed during the War Between the States comes from a newspaper article printed in 1925, which states that the town "was well fortified with heavy breastworks" at the time of its capture by Federal troops in 1864. As has been adequately discussed in Chapter 6 of Section I, it is the opinion of the present researcher that these "heavy breastworks" most likely surrounded the central area of the small village. Fort Defiance, old and abandoned by the 1860's, appears not to have constituted a significant part of the town's defenses at this time.

As the above summaries indicate, two very important questions about Sunbury's fortifications remain unanswered:

(1) Exactly where was the Revolutionary fort at Sunbury (Fort Morris or Fort George) situated?

(2) Was Sunbury's War of 1812 fort (Fort Defiance) constructed on the site of or in the form of the Revolutionary fort?

In order to properly evaluate the answers to these questions, an understanding of the topographical features of the land in and around Sunbury is of critical importance. The bluff where the town of Sunbury was built originally extended along the Medway River for approximately 5,000 feet in an uneven north-south direction. In the early 20th Century, Sunbury property owners extended the original bluff into the thin strip of marsh lying between the river and town. The most noticeable digression of the present shoreline

from the ancient bluff line is near the southern end of the bluff. Originally, springs created a natural indentation along the bluff in this area, which had necessitated the elimination of a row of lots there when Sunbury was first laid out. Presently, the entire area surrounding the springs and extending into the outlying marsh has been filled to create additional land for development -- creating exactly the opposite appearance of its natural state.

South of these former springs, the original bluff of Sunbury continues for approximately 600 more feet, until it is again interrupted by the remains of a creek, which originally cut across the marsh and into the shoreline at this point. This creek bed formerly extended for perhaps 300 feet back from the marsh and marked the southern boundary of the colonial and Revolutionary town of Sunbury.

On the southern side of this creek, the bluff rises once again and continues southward for almost 600 feet until it takes a sharp turn inland and disappears into the surrounding marsh. This sharp turn creates a natural peninsula out of the southernmost point of the Sunbury bluff. Bounded on the south and east by marshes and on the north by the marshy creek (across which lay the original town), this peninsula is today owned by the State of Georgia. On its easternmost point are the excellently preserved earthworks of Fort Defiance, built in 1814-15.

The northern portion of the Sunbury bluff bends from its north-south course in a northwesterly direction some 2,000 feet before its terminus. At this point, the shoreline turns first west and then southwest for another 2,000 feet, forming a rounded point of land which extends into the expansive marshes of the Medway River which lie north of Sunbury. The town limits originally ended about 1,000 feet due south of this point. The western side of Sunbury was formed by a large creek which extends from the Medway River in a

southwest direction. The creek turns south after reaching the old Sunbury town limits and continues along the western boundary of the town for over 3,000 feet. Here, it again turns southwest, which leaves the area immediately south of Sunbury relatively free from marshland. [For a better visual understanding of the land surrounding Sunbury, see Illustrations 12 and 16; for proof of the original boundaries of Sunbury, see Chapter 2, Section II.]

With the terrain clearly in mind, let us now examine the facts concerning the shape and location of the Revolutionary fort at Sunbury. Two maps are in existence which provide an indication of the shape and general location of the Revolutionary fort. The first of these is undated and unsigned, a manuscript drawn of the Georgia and Florida coast between the Little Ogeechee River and the St. Johns River [Illustration 6]. The town of Sunbury appears as a large cluster of dwellings along the Medway River on the map, and the "Fort" is drawn south of the town on what appears to be a slight projection into the river. No other defense works in the Sunbury area are illustrated on the map. The fort is squarely shaped, with a bastion in each of its corners, but the shape is probably a crude symbol, rather than an exact shape for the fort. Two roads lead toward the town, converging just before their entry into Sunbury. One leads from Midway Meetinghouse (the Sunbury Road), and the other leads from the North Newport River (the Ferry Road).

This map can be conclusively dated as 1776-78 for several reasons. First, "Fort Barrington" is shown on the map on the north side of the Altamaha River; this fort's name was changed to Fort Howe in December of 1776.[231] Second, the residence of "Mr. McKay" is depicted on the northwestern side of Sapelo Island. Sapelo was the home of Patrick MacKay of Sunbury, where he died in 1777.[232] Third, the author of this map may be identified as Captain

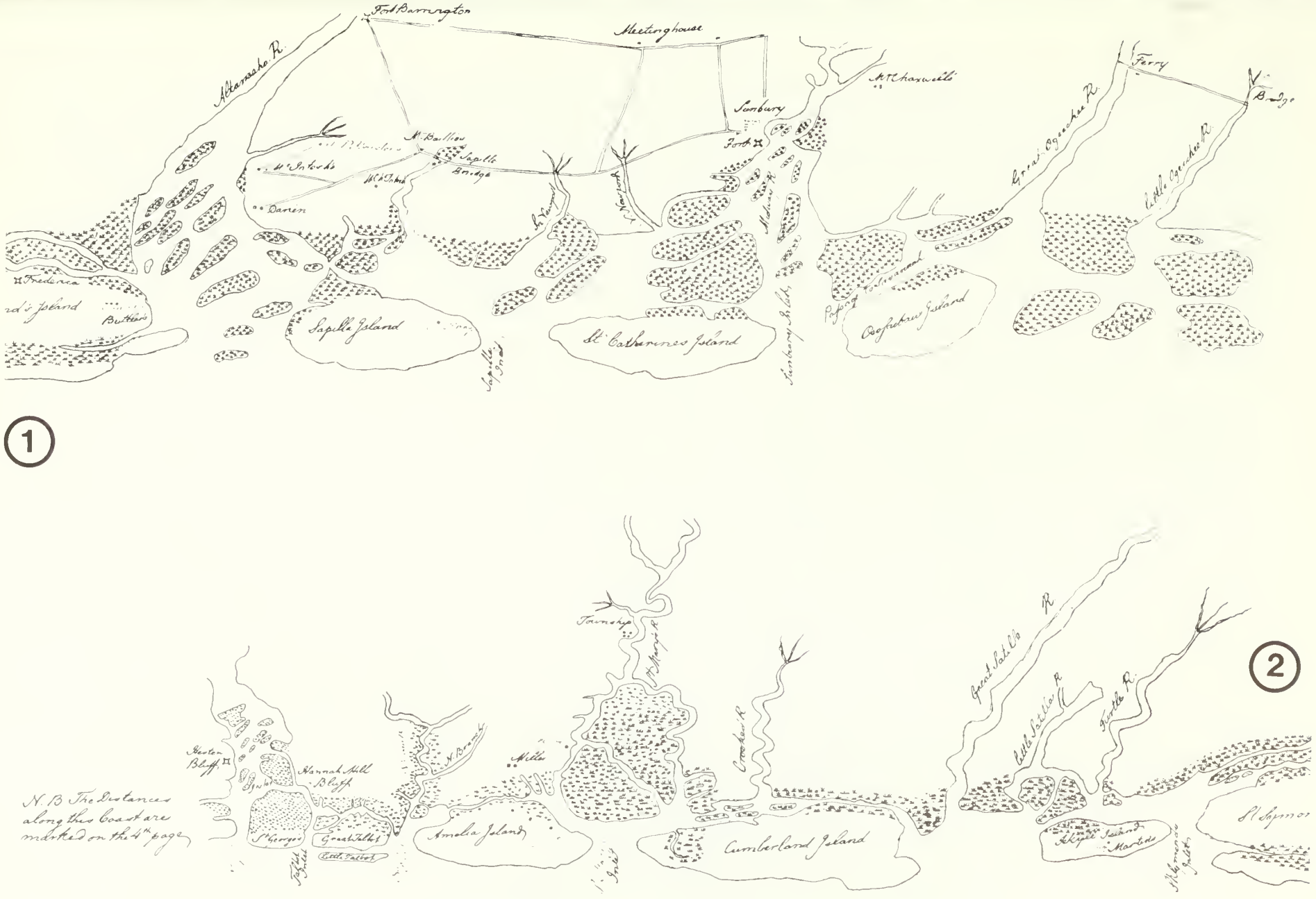



*Illustration 6.*
*Map of the Georgia coast (showing the Sunbury Fort)*
*by John Herd, ca. 1777*

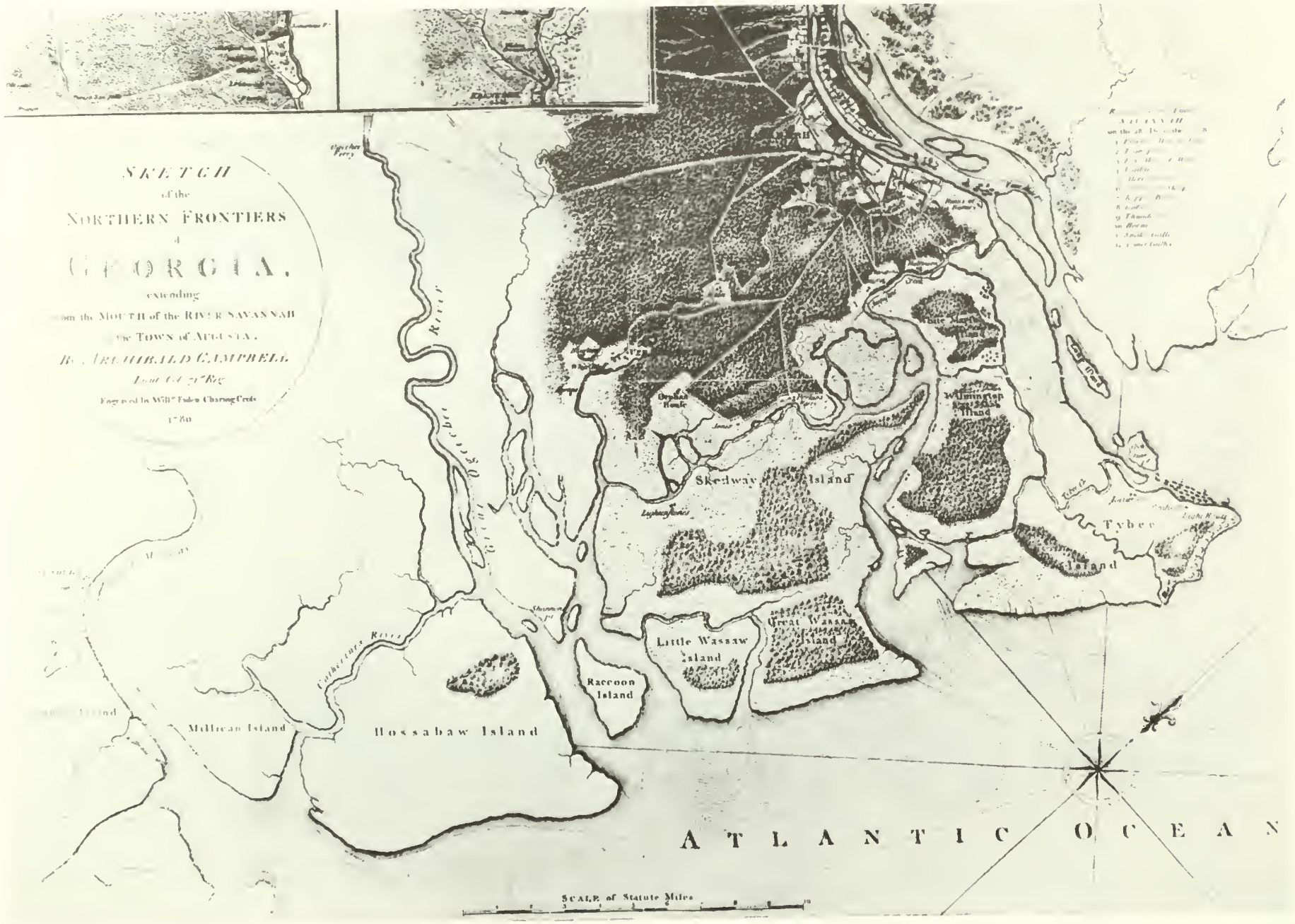



*Illustration 7.*
*Map of Georgia (showing the Sunbury Fort)*
*by Lieut. Col. Archibald Campbell, 1780*

John Herd, a Continental Engineer officer in Georgia who was ordered to the southern area of Georgia in 1776 to aid in laying out Fort Howe. By 1778, he was back in Savannah, where he died on February 14 of that year.[233]

The second map in existence which shows Sunbury's Revolutionary defenses was drawn in 1780 by Lt. Col. Archibald Campbell [see Illustration 7]. This map covers primarily the area between Savannah and Augusta, but the labeled town and fortifications of Sunbury clearly show in the left-hand corner. The shape of the fort, depicted south of the town on this map, is similar to that of the fort on Herd's map, but its careful placement and detailed depiction strongly indicate that the actual fort possessed this slightly rectangular shape. The angles of the bastions appear very sharpe, and a rectangular building (probably the barracks) is shown in the fort's center. Also, the entire town and fort are shown surrounded by an outer defense work, which was undoubtedly the entrenchment constructed around Sunbury in 1776 under the direction of Colonel John Baker [see Footnote 63]. The fact that the entrenchment shown on this map does not completely encompass the town indicates that it was never finished. The entrenchment was never mentioned during the 1778 attack on Sunbury, and in the 1779 attack, the British troops camped in the entrenchment's ditch. In both attacks on the town, the British readily occupied most of Sunbury and only fought in order to capture the garrisoned fort. General Howe's estimate that over 1,000 men were needed to defend Sunbury probably referred not only to the maintenance of the central citadel, but also to garrisoning the entire entrenchment that surrounded the town and fort.

The best clues to the exact location of the Revolutionary fort appear on a plat of Josiah Powell and in a letter of John McIntosh. The Powell plat,

surveyed on April 1, 1786, illustrates a 100-acre tract of marsh granted to Powell [see Illustration 8]. The marshland began at the southern boundary of Sunbury and continued south between the bluffline or shoreline and the Medway River for some distance. The most interesting feature of the plat is a mark on the small peninsula immediately south of the town, beside which is written: "Angle of the Forts Bulwark." From this plat, one might conclude that the southeast corner of Fort Morris lay in the southeastern area of this peninsula -- the same peninsula on which Fort Defiance was later built.

A letter to General Benjamin Lincoln at Purisburg from John McIntosh, the commander of Fort Morris when it was attacked by Colonel Fuser in November of 1778, provides the second clue to the Revolutionary fort's location:

> 12th February 1779
>
> Sir
>
> I have just Received a Letter from Mr. Thomas Young, acquainting me that the Certificate which I gave him for pulling down his House at Sunburry [sic] at the time Colonel Fuser took possession of It -- wherein he acquaints me my Reasons Were not fully sett [sic] forth, for destroying of Said House. I will therefore Sir endeavour to State them in a clearer manner -- begin apprehensive of an attack from the Enemy, I thought it prudent to have the Buildings which were near the Fort pulld down, that I might have no obstruction in the use of the Artillery. This House of Mr. Youngs laying near the North West corner of the Fort, I was apprehensive of the Enemy's taking possession of it, and annoying me within the Walls. I thought it prudent, and with the advice of My Officers to have it distroyed [sic] which I accordingly did.
>
> I am Sir Wt Esteem Your Most. obt huml Servt.
>
> John McIntosh Lt. Col.
>
> Wm Scott Captn.
> Andw. Templeton, Capt.
> Gideon Booker, Capt.
> Nathal. Pearre Lieut.[234]

In 1778, Thomas Young owned five lots in Sunbury, but only one, Lot 93, lay near the southern boundary of the town.[235] This lot, literally <u>on</u> the southern boundary, was the third lot from the bay [see Illustration 11].

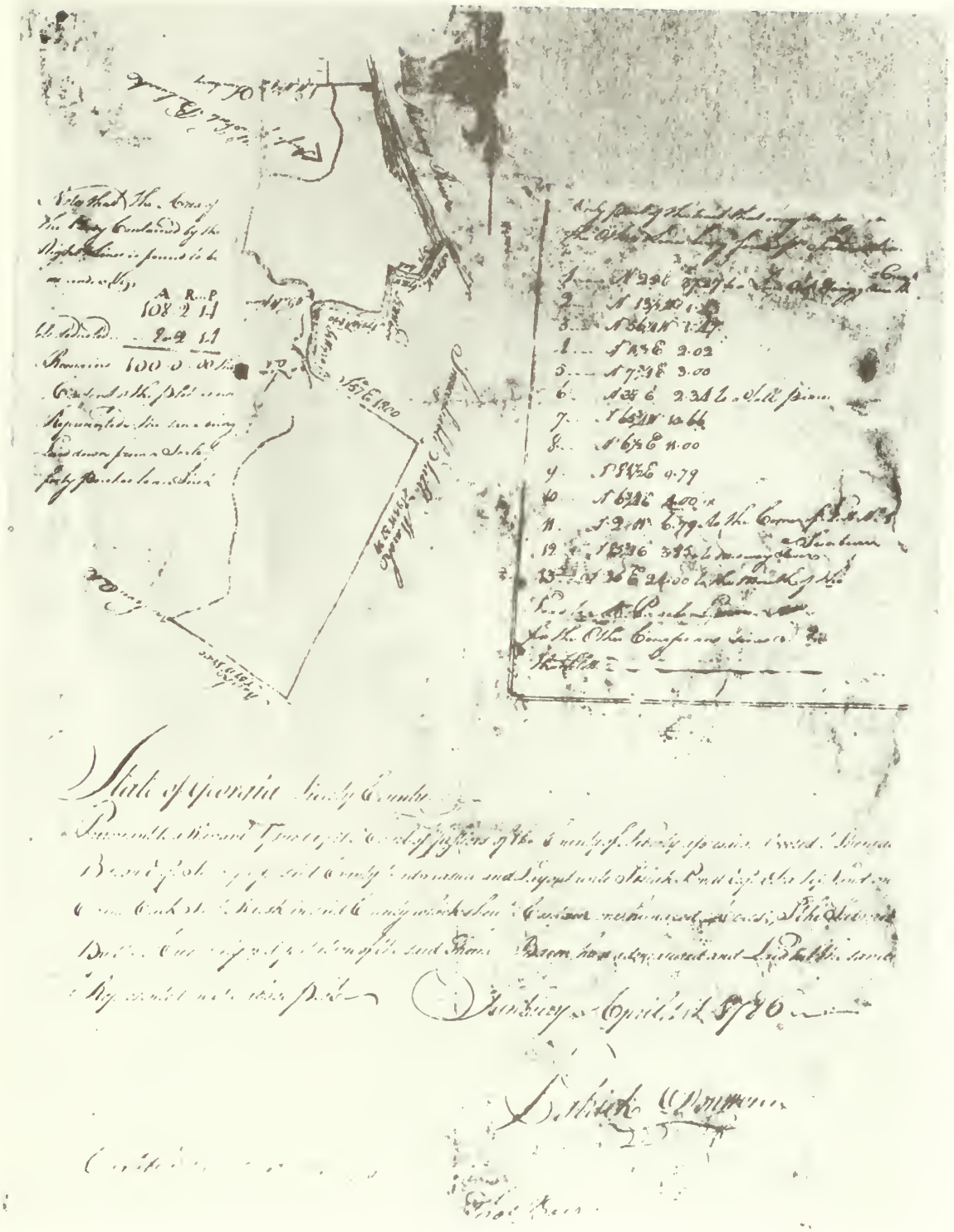


*Illustration 8.*
*Plat of 100 acres granted to Josiah Powell, 1786*

Knowing the length of a Sunbury town lot and allowing for one 70-foot street between the first and second lots and one 20-foot lane between the second and third lots, an estimate of the lot's location may be derived: Young's lot lay 350 feet west of the bluff's edge -- a considerable distance inland.

Using both of these clues in connection with the knowledge of Fort Morris' shape, the present researcher has concluded the following: The Revolutionary fort at Sunbury -- Fort Morris -- was located on a small peninsula immediately adjacent to the southern boundary of the town of Sunbury. The northern side of this peninsula was (and still is, to some extent) formed by a small creek and ravine cutting inland some 300 feet from the marshes of the Medway River. The southern boundary of Sunbury lay along the northern side of this natural cut. The Revolutionary fort was much larger than the salient earthworks, which were built during the War of 1812 and located on the eastern portion of this same peninsula. In contrast to the present earthworks, Fort Morris extended almost the whole length and breadth of the peninsula, beginning in the southeast corner (as shown on Powell's plat) and stretching to the northwest corner -- just south of Lot 93 (as indicated in the McIntosh letter). The fort, according to Campbell's map, was relatively square, with four pointed bastions, one on each corner. (Most small forts of the Revolutionary period were square and contained four pointed bastions.) A magazine and a large barracks lay inside the fort walls; an entrenchment surrounded the fort on the south and both the town and the fort on the west.

Fort Morris was certainly built of wood and earth, which was burned or destroyed during the latter years of the Revolution. Fort Defiance, whose construction began in 1814, was a completely new work: smaller than Fort Morris, irregularly shaped, with higher earthworks. However, Fort Defiance was located on the eastern portion of the Revolutionary fort, leading many

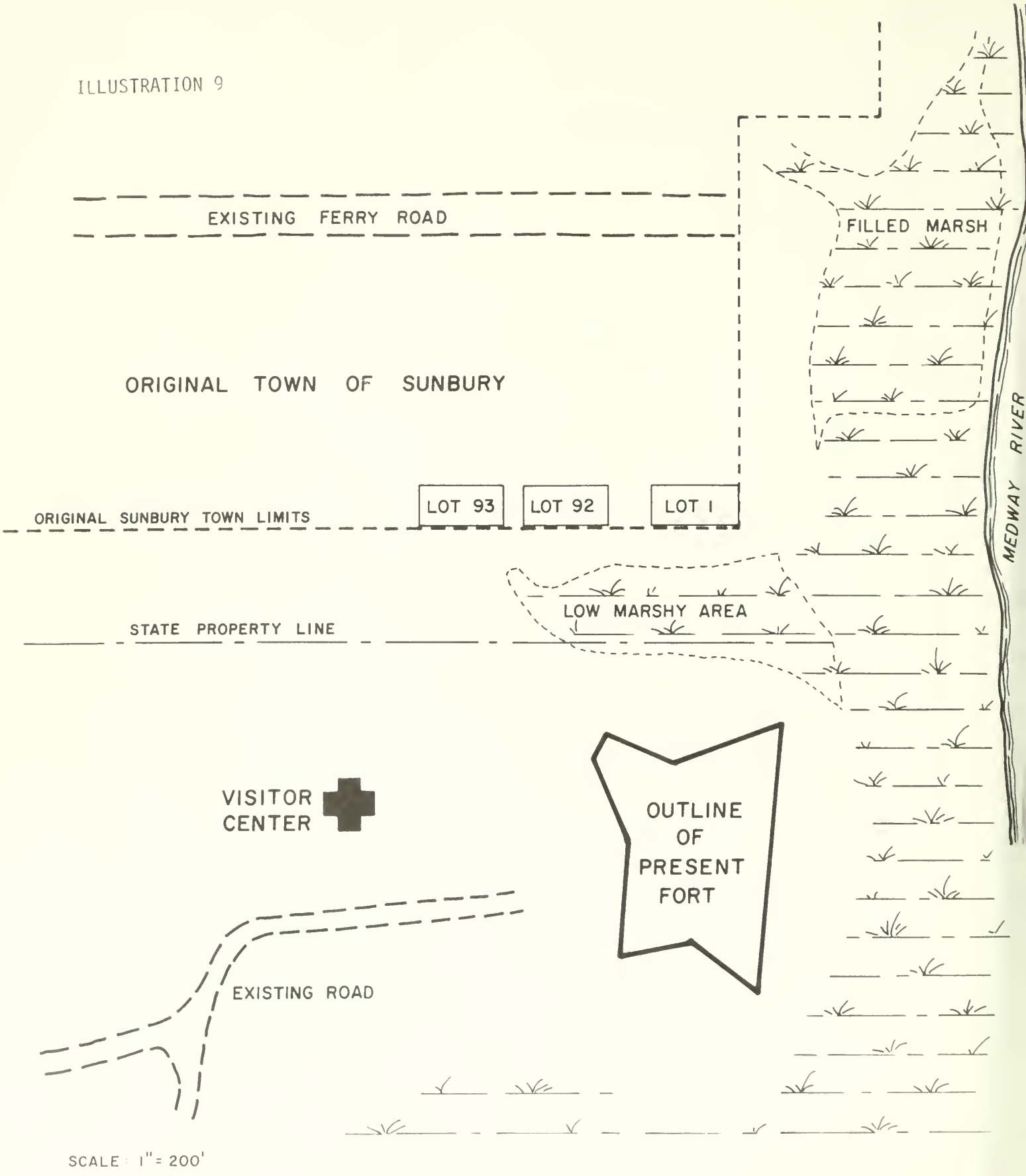
historians to claim that the two forts were identical [see Illustrations 9 and 10].[236]

A full history of the Revolutionary Fort Morris must be included in any future interpretation of the salient Sunbury earthworks. In addition, the interpretation of both of these forts (Morris and Defiance) must be interwoven with a history of Sunbury itself. Each of Sunbury's four periods of defense was the result of a direct and immediate need for protection; all of the town's defense works, including Fort Morris and Fort Defiance, were hastily erected by the local populace and then evacuated and allowed to deteriorate in times of peace. Never in the town's history was a fortification ever properly completed.

In 1814, the town's inhabitants used local resources to construct a fort to alleviate their fear of external attack. The fort was built at the insistence of the county's citizens and with slave labor. Although constructed under the supervision of a U.S. Army engineer from Savannah, it was built cheaply and quickly. Any surviving earthworks from the old Fort Morris were undoubtedly destroyed during the construction of Fort Defiance. Members of the Committee of Safety decided to rebuild the Revolutionary fort (as some proposed), but instead built a smaller and more efficient fort in the vicinity of their old fort.

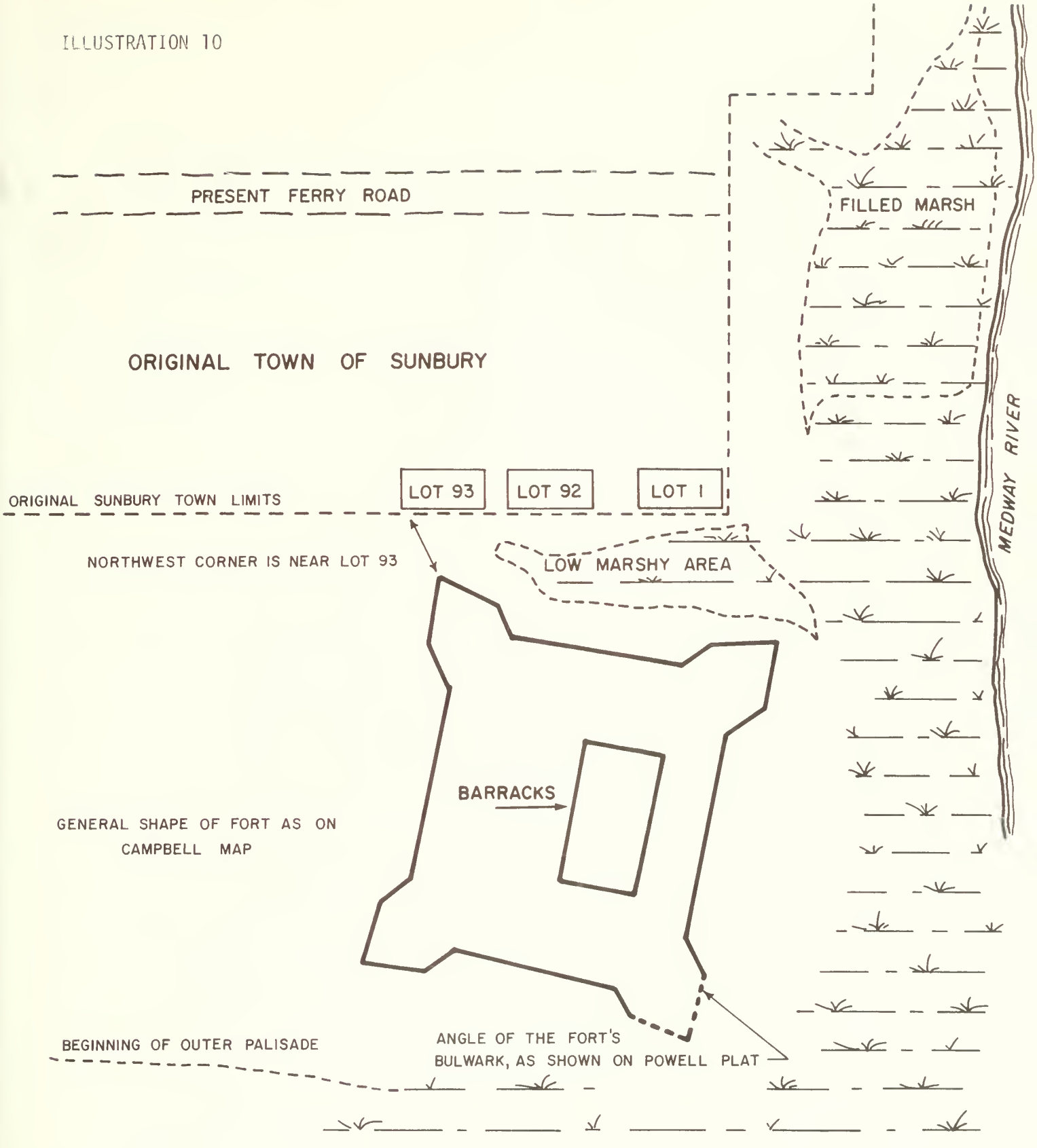
It is hoped that archaeological investigations around and in Fort Defiance will some day relocate the exact boundaries of the Revolutionary fort. Until such a time, however, the writer hopes that the State of Georgia will continue in it endeavors to preserve, restore, and interpret the intact earthworks of Fort Defiance for the public's enjoyment and educational benefit. The War of 1812 in Georgia is a topic rarely interpreted, and Fort

ILLUSTRATION 9




# PLAT SHOWING THE LOCATION OF THE PRESENT FORT IN RELATION TO THE TOWN OF SUNBURY

ILLUSTRATION 10




SCALE: 1" = 200'

# PLAT SHOWING THE CONJECTURAL LOCATION OF THE REVOLUTIONARY FORT IN RELATION TO SUNBURY

Defiance, the direct result of the pressures and fears of the war, is one of the last physical remains of this important period of our history. Its historic value as a unique Georgia fort, its military value as a coastal post during 1814-15, and its intrinsic value as an integral part of the town of Sunbury cannot be underestimated. [For photographs of the present Sunbury fort, see Illustration 20.]

## Chapter 2

## THE LAND

After examining the political, social, economic, and military history of Sunbury, one must also examine the history of the land on which Sunbury was founded, developed, and finally died. Many of the details in surveying and conveying this land over the course of many years have been lost or destroyed. These remaining records present a confusing picture, but one which provides insight into Sunbury's development.

According to the deed of trust from Mark Carr to James Maxwell, Kenneth Baillie, John Elliott, Grey Elliott, and John Stevens on June 20, 1758, the town of Sunbury had been laid out within a 500-acre tract of land. Of this 500 acres, the actual town of Sunbury comprised 300 acres. Of this 300 acres, 200 were laid off in lots, 70 feet by 130 feet; streets, 70 feet wide; lanes, 20 feet wide; and squares. The remaining 100 acres constituted the town common.[237]

According to this same conveyance, a plat had been made of the town at the time that it was laid out; unfortunately, no plat was recorded along with the 1758 deed. In fact, with one exception, all the early plats of the town seem to be irretrievably lost. The one surviving plat, made soon after the town was first laid out, came into the possession of Major John Jones, a resident of St. John's Parish who was killed in the 1779 siege of Savannah.[238] The plat eventually passed to his great-grandson, Charles C. Jones, Jr., who carefully copied the document and had it printed in his Dead Towns of Georgia in 1878.[239]

This original plat was large enough to allow the names of early owners

of the 496 town lots to be indicated within each lot. Jones extracted these names from the plat and printed them in his book in numerical fashion. Unfortunately, Jones' original plat has mysteriously disappeared since his death in 1893, but because of his carefully-drawn copy, the original layout of Sunbury has been permanently preserved [see Illustration 11].

Many of the recorded deeds which concern various Sunbury lots recite the exact boundaries of the lot or lots. These boundaries serve to positively authenticate the town plat copied by Jones. The boundaries mentioned in the following deeds illustrate the plat's accuracy:

(1) By lease and release dated November 2-3, 1761, James Heart, late of Sunbury, merchant, sold to Samuel Spry of St. Paul's Parish, Colleton County, S.C., for £10, Lot 10 in Sunbury (70 feet by 130 feet), bounded east by the bay, west by a lane, south by Lot 9, and north by Lot 11, together with the low water and wharf lot thereunto belonging [Georgia Colonial Conveyance Book C-2, pp. 628-31].

(2) By conveyance dated September 10, 1797, Jan Molich of Sunbury, merchant, sold to Christian Leopold Schmidt of Sunbury, merchant, for $2,142.87, wharf Lot 14 in Sunbury, bounded west on Bay Street, south on a street leading east-west to the low-water mark, north on Lot 15, and east on the River Medway [Liberty County Deed Book DD, pp. 205-8].

(3) By conveyance dated February 1, 1775, Roger Kelsall and Simon Munro of Sunbury, merchants, sold to Gideon Dupont of Charleston, merchant, for £350, Lot 16 in Sunbury, bounded east by the bay, south by Lot 15, west by a lane, and north by Montague Street, together with the low-water lot.

(4) By conveyance dated February 20, 1773, Simon Munro of Sunbury, merchant, sold to Thomas Peacock, for £35, Lot 53 in Sunbury (70 feet by 130 feet), bounded east by the first lane from the bay of the said town, south by

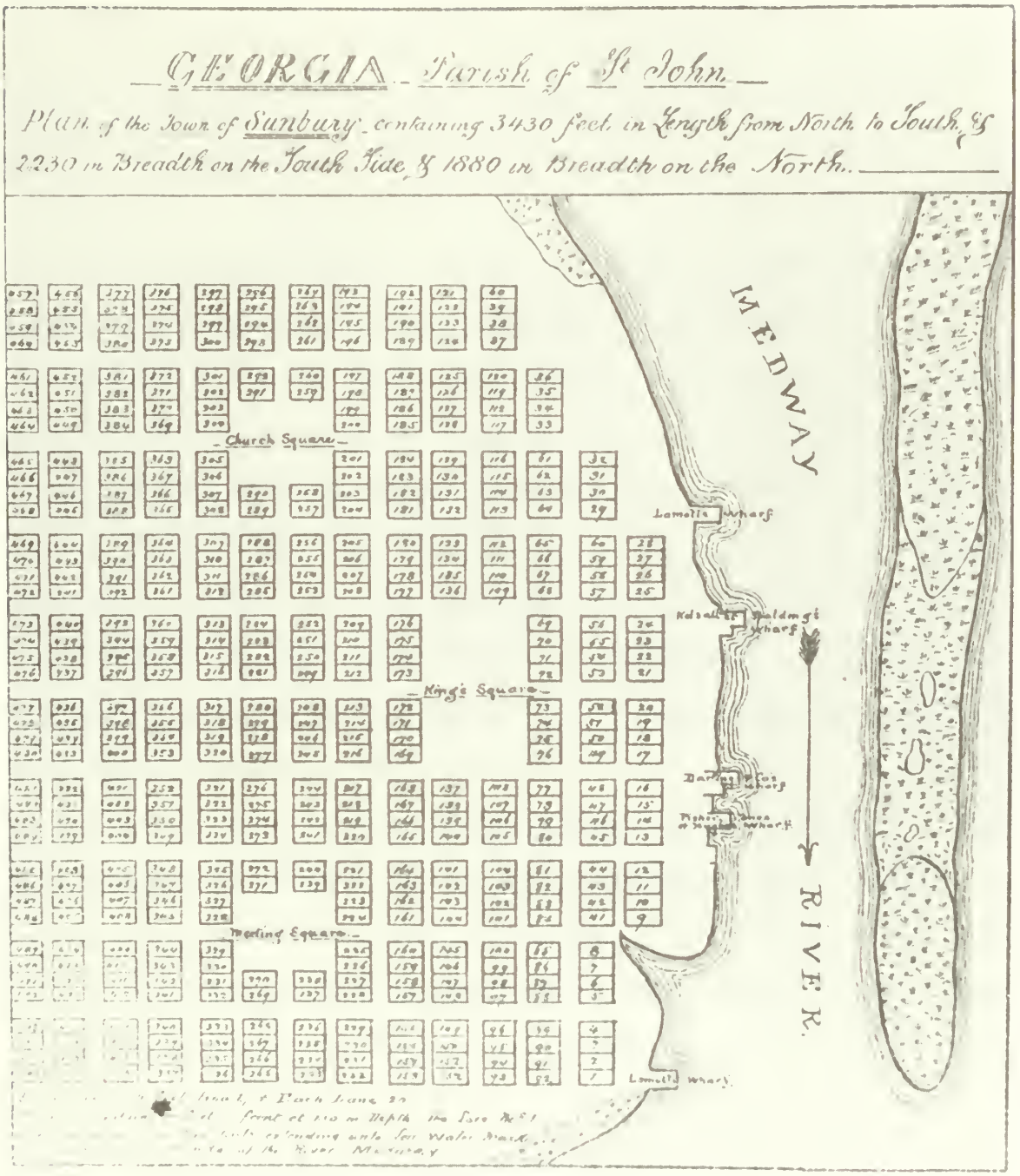

GEORGIA. Parish of St John.
Plan of the Town of Sunbury containing 3430 feet in Length from North to South & 2230 in Breadth on the South Side & 1880 in Breadth on the North.
Church Square
King's Square
Meeting Square
MEDWAY
RIVER
Lamotte Wharf
Baldwin's Wharf
Lamotte Wharf

*Illustration 11.*
*Plat of the town of Sunbury showing the original layout of the streets and lots, ca. 1758*

Midway Street, west by a street, and north by Lot 54 [Georgia Colonial Conveyance Book X-2, pp. 912-13].

(5) By conveyance dated March 4, 1795, Cyrus Gildersleeve, clergyman, and wife Rinchie, sold to William Hunter Torrens, attorney, Lot 79 in Sunbury for £55, bounded north by Lot 78, south by Lot 80, east on a main street, and west on a lane [Liberty County Deed Book C, pp. 188-90].

(6) By conveyance dated September 2, 1787, William Baker and Nehemiah Baker sold to John Dollar of Sunbury, Lot 172 in Sunbury for £22-10-0, bounded by a street on the north, by a public square on the east, by Lot 171 on the south, and by a street on the west [Liberty County Deed Book B, pp. 211-12].

(7) By conveyance dated February 11, 1784, the Commissioners of Confiscated Estates sold Thomas White of Liberty County, tailor, for £186, Lots 281 and 282 in Sunbury, bounded south by Medway Street, east by a street leading from Medway to Church streets, west by a 20-foot alley or lane, and north by Lot 283 [Liberty County Deed Book B, pp. 144-45].

Official sale of the Sunbury lots by the town's trustees began in 1759 and continued until 1763. In addition to the first five trustees, two more Sunbury residents, James Fisher and Francis Arthur, were appointed to that capacity.[240] The trustees drew up the original lot deeds in a standard form, and three trustees signed each document. The deed gave the lot number and price of the lot, which varied according to the lot's distance from the town bluff. [For further information on the Sunbury lots, see the conveyance from Mark Carr to the trustees, Section I.] Appendix E of this report contains an example of an original Sunbury lot deed, and a partial listing of the chains of title on most of the Sunbury lots is also included in this appendix. Unfortunately, a large percentage of the original Sunbury deeds were never

recorded, and, as a result, the names of the initial purchasers of many of the lots are based solely on the list of early lot owners published by C.C. Jones, Jr. Also, a large percentage of subsequent Sunbury lot owners never recorded their deeds; a number of lots, therefore, contain large gaps in the step-by-step transactions.

In spite of the initial prosperity of Sunbury, many of the lots in the northwestern and southwestern corners of the town remained unsold. On April 5, 1767, Mark Carr and the Sunbury trustees conveyed the 196 "unsold lots" to Patrick MacKay of Sunbury for £550.[241] During the same year, Carr sold MacKay the part of his land grant on the Medway River which had not been incorporated into the town of Sunbury.[242] According to the original grant, Carr's land contained 500 acres, which left over 200 acres after subtracting the 300 acres laid out for Sunbury. However, a resurvey of the original tract determined that Carr's actual holdings contained only 100 acres outside of the town and common.[243]

On December 23, 1768, Patrick MacKay sold this 100 acres, along with 500 acres lying immediately south of Carr's grant, to Alexander Duff of London and Helen Gordon of Inverness of Scotland, the widow of John Gordon.[244] This second 500-acre tract had been granted on July 4, 1758, to John Mullryne, who had sold the tract to Mark Carr within the next few years.[245] Carr, in turn, had sold the property to MacKay in 1767 along with the remains of his own 500-acre grant.[246] In a subsequent transaction, the "Mullryne tract" then reverted from Gordon and Duff to MacKay.[247] At MacKay's death, the tract was bought by Colonel John Baker, from whom it was legally confiscated in 1798; William Milligan bought the land at public auction.[248] By 1799, John Tompkins owned the tract, but it was confiscated from him in 1805 and sold to

Thomas Young of Savannah.[249] On January 28, 1817, Young's estate sold the Mullryne tract to the Rev. Charles O. Screven of Sunbury, whose heirs continued to hold the property until after the War Between the States.[250]

Mark Carr's 500-acre grant was bounded on the north and east by the Medway River and its marshes, on the south by the 500 acres granted to John Mullryne, and on the west by 500 acres belonging to Carr's son, Thomas. The western 500 acres had been granted on April 5, 1757, to Thomas Carr, who sold the entire tract on September 26, 1772, to Roger Kelsall of Sunbury.[251] In the deed of conveyance, Carr called himself "late of Sunbury, but now of Eschet in Northumberland County, England, Esquire."[252] Kelsall continued to own the property until after the Revolutionary War; the new Georgia government confiscated the 500 acres because Kelsall fled to England as a Loyalist.[253]

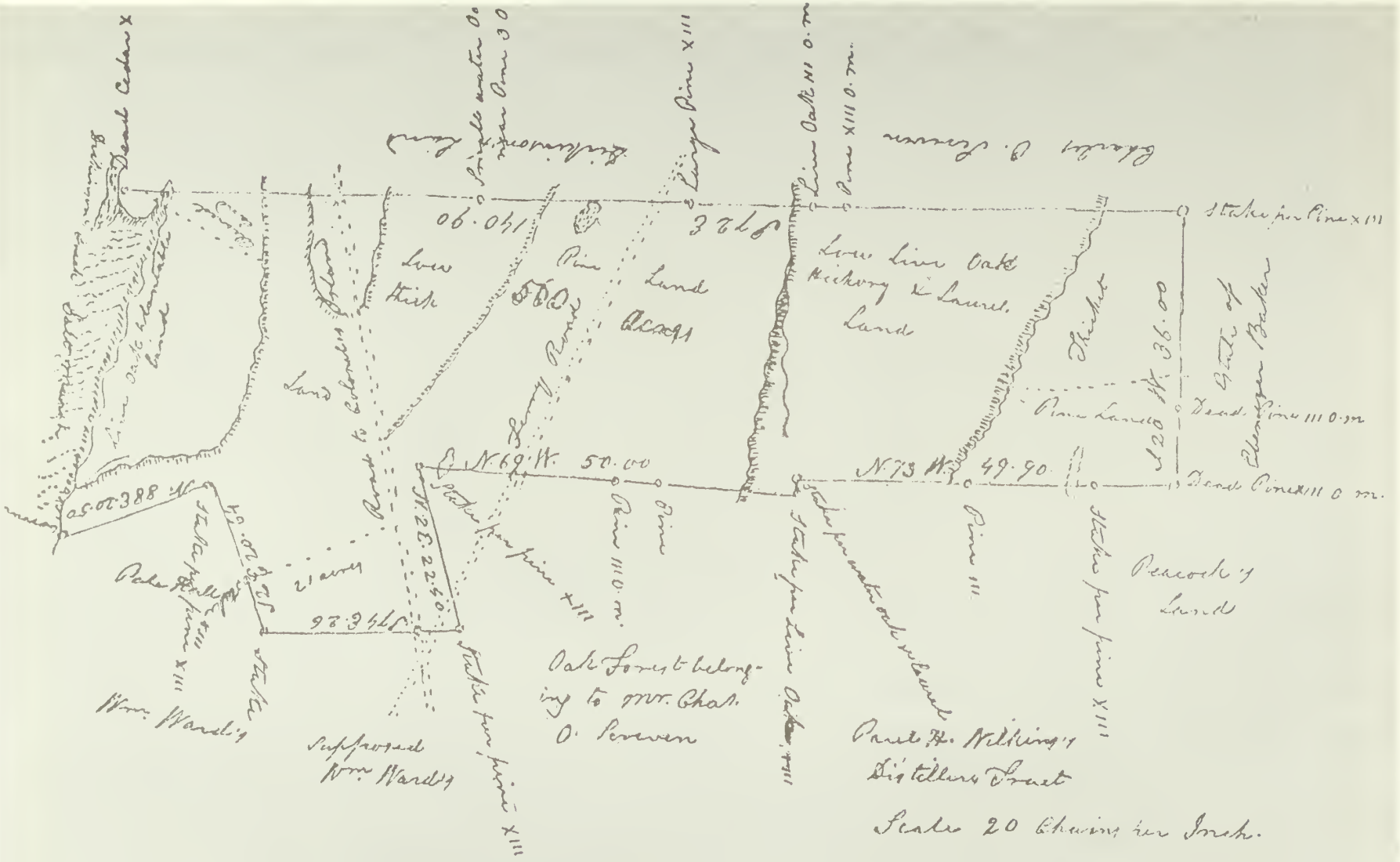
The Commissioners of Confiscated Estates divided the 500-acre "Thomas Carr tract" into thirds, selling two-thirds to John Baker and one-third to John Hardy.[254] The larger portion of this tract became known as the "Distillery" and eventually passed into the hands of Paul H. Wilkins in the early 1800's.[255] In a resurvey, Wilkins found that the property actually contained 600 acres.[256] The smaller part of Thomas Carr's tract, owned by John Hardy, was known as "Kelsall's Barns"; it was legally confiscated from Hardy's estate and sold at public auction in 1791 to Dr. Adam Alexander of Sunbury.[257] Alexander transferred the land to his daughter, Mrs. Kenneth Irvine, in 1809,[258] and she sold the tract (found by a resurvey to constitute 232 acres) to the Rev. Charles O. Screven on June 17, 1816.[259] The land remained in the Screven family for many years, along with the adjoining 500-acre "Mullryne tract."

The course of the old Sunbury Road, leading from Midway Meetinghouse to the town of Sunbury, has not changed. Today, it still enters Sunbury at approximately the same point that it did over 200 years ago when the town was first laid out. Using the C.C. Jones plat of Sunbury as a guide and measuring off distances from the old Sunbury Road on an aerial view of the area, or on any accurate map, the original boundaries of the town may be readily determined [see Illustration 15].

The writer has been fortunate in locating surveys of the Mullryne tract (made in 1817), the "Distillery" tract (made in 1816), and "Kelsall's Barns" (made in 1816)[260] [see Illustrations 13, 14, and 15]. These three tracts which surround the original Mark Carr grant on the west and south can be properly drafted on a plat of the Sunbury area, enabling a researcher to determine the original boundaries of the Carr grant [see the topographical map of the Sunbury area, Illustration 16, as well as the outline of this map, which shows the location of the three grants, Illustration 17].

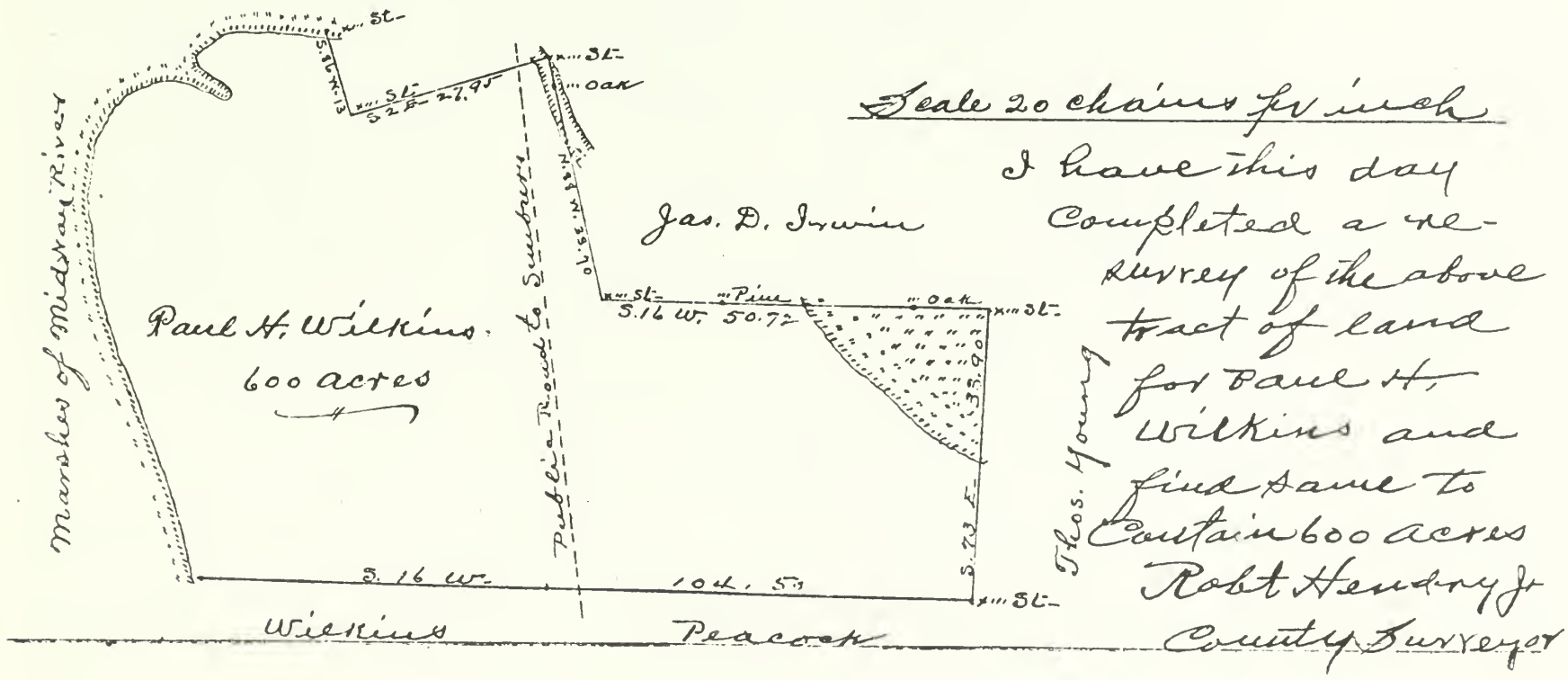
From the boundaries shown on these three surveys, the approximate location of the Sunbury common can also be determined.[261] The western common stretched between the town's western boundary and the eastern boundary of the "Distillery" tract and "Kelsall's Barns" (both of these grants originally constituting the grant to Thomas Carr). The very small northern common and the somewhat larger southern common extended the entire length of the town's northern and southern boundaries and, together with the narrow western common, provided Sunbury with a three-sided buffer from the surrounding plantations [see Illustration 18]. The peninsula on which the Revolutionary Fort Morris and the War of 1812 Fort Defiance were built was a part of the southern common. This fact explains why no transactions of property in the close vicinity of the fort site exist for the period prior to the War Between the

*Illustration 12.*
*Aerial view of the area surrounding Sunbury,*
*showing the original boundaries of the town, 1953*


Low Live Oak Hickory & Laurel Land
Pine Land
Oak Forest belonging to Mr. Chas. O. Screven
Paul H. Wilkins's Distillers Tract
Peacock's Land
Wm. Ward's
Suppposed Wm. Ward's
Scale 20 Chains per Inch.

Georgia
Liberty County } The above Plat represents a tract of five hundred and sixty acres of land, near the town of Sunbury in said county, originally granted to John Mulryne, and at present the property of Thomas Young

ILLUSTRATION 14


Marshes of Midway River
Paul H. Wilkins.
600 acres
Jas. D. Irwin
Public Road to Sunbury
Thos. Young
Wilkins
Peacock
Scale 20 chains pr inch
I have this day Completed a re-Survey of the above tract of land for Paul H. Wilkins and find same to Contain 600 acres
Robt Hendry Jr
County Surveyor

# PLAT OF 600 ACRES OWNED BY PAUL H. WILKINS

(Part of an Original Grant to Thomas Carr), 1816

*Illustration 15.*
*Plat of 232 acres owned by Charles O. Screven*
*(part of an original grant to Thomas Carr), 1816*

Recorded 17th September 1816 by
C. Baker Clk.
Stake per Pine & gum X III
N 89 W 26.50
Small Live oak III
Dead pine III O. m.
John Molich
Stake per pine X III
Thomas Gerow's Land

Scales of 20 chains per Inch from a plat of 10 chains per Inch.

Georgia
Liberty County } A Resurvey for Mr. Charles O. Screven of a tract of land of 232 acres formerly belonging to the Late Doctr. Adam Alexander. Resurvey by me June

*Illustration 16.*
*Topographical map of the area surrounding Sunbury, 1958*

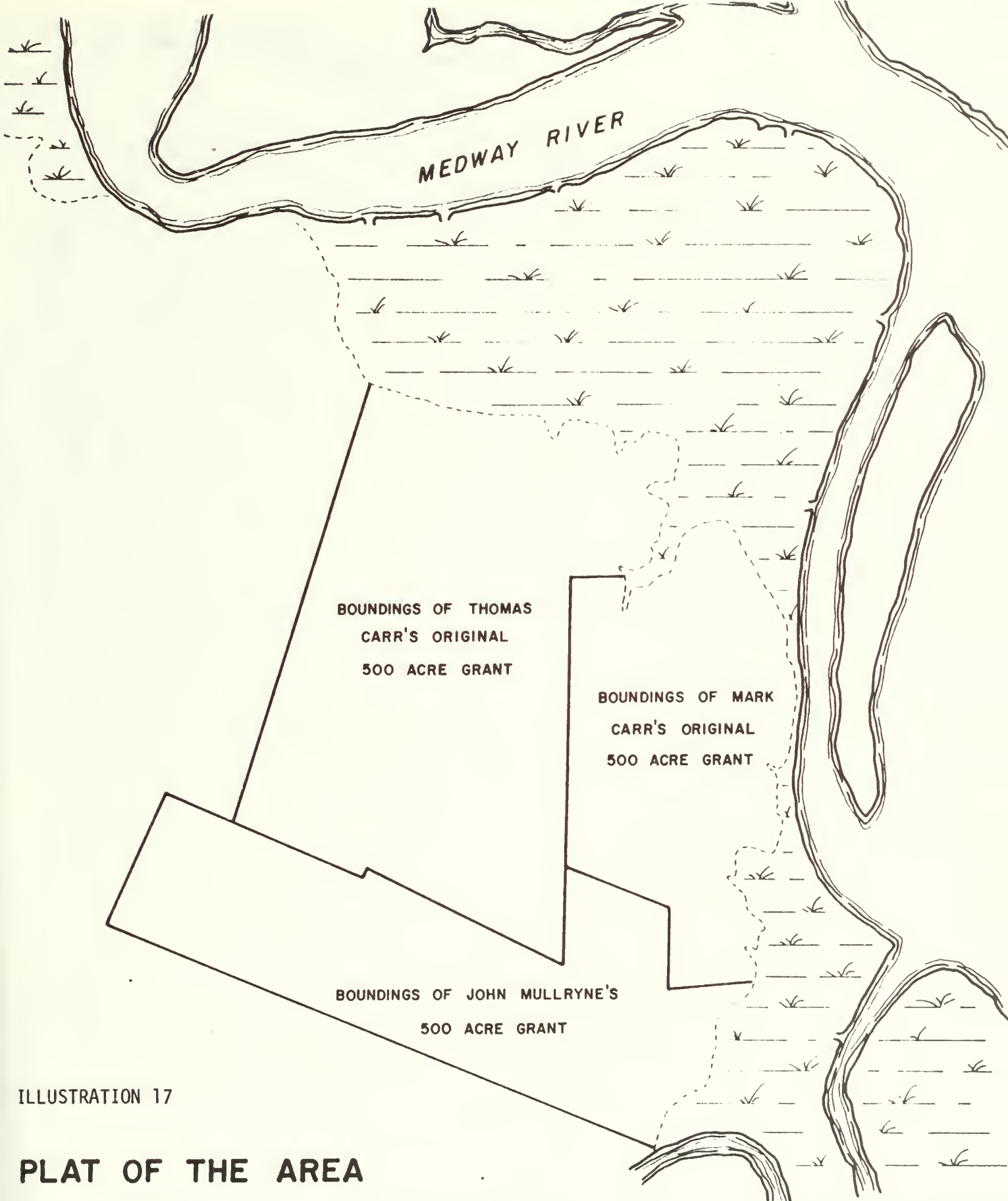



ILLUSTRATION 17

**PLAT OF THE AREA SURROUNDING SUNBURY SHOWING THE LOCATION OF THE GRANTS TO MARK CARR, THOMAS CARR & JOHN MULLRYN**

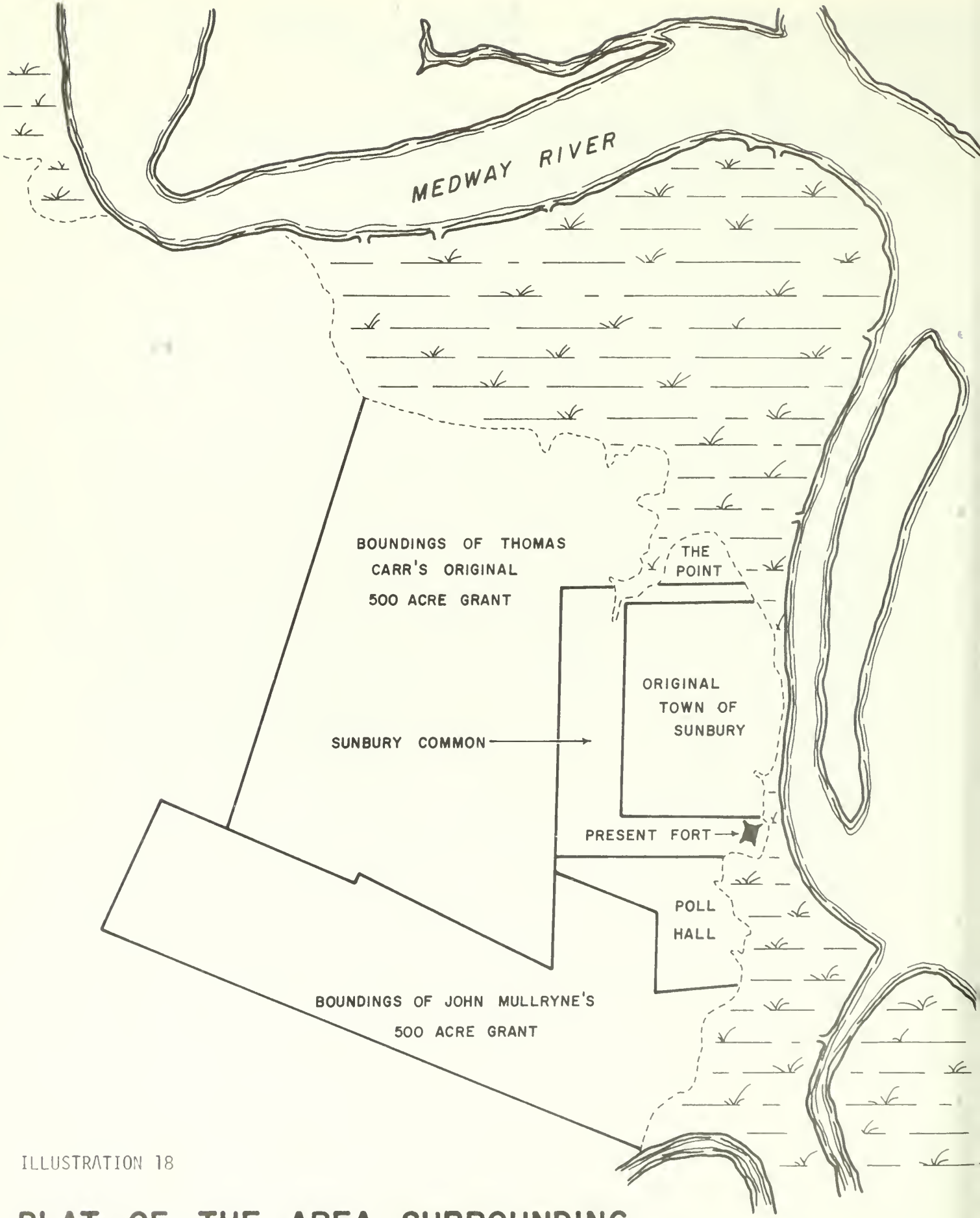



ILLUSTRATION 18

**PLAT OF THE AREA SURROUNDING SUNBURY SHOWING THE ORIGINAL BOUNDARIES OF THE TOWN AND COMMON**

States.

Having determined the location of the town of Sunbury and the Sunbury common (both within the boundary of Mark Carr's original grant), the location of the grant's remaining 100 acres can be readily determined. A small point of land just north of Sunbury, containing approximately 40 acres, and an irregularly-shaped tract just south of Sunbury, containing approximately 60 acres, comprised this remainder.[262] The northern tract, known as "the Point," and the southern tract, known as "Pole Hall," were both in the possession of Patrick MacKay's estate as late as the 1780's. Henry Myers of Sunbury apparently bought both tracts shortly thereafter.[263]

Once in the hands of Myers, the two tracts were split up into small fragments. Parts of the Point were owned at various times by the Rev. William Hammett of Charleston, John Croft, and John Hill; the entire Point later passed into the hands of William Maxwell, who retained the property until the 1850's.[264] The Pole Hall tract had an even more complicated history. Pieces of it were owned by James Holmes, Lachlan McIntosh, James Powell, Jan Molich, and William Ward,[265] and eventually the entire tract passed into the possession of the Rev. Charles O. Screven.[266].

In the division of Screven's estate in 1830, his son William inherited much of the land south of Sunbury. William sold the Pole Hall tract to his brother Benjamin on July 11, 1848, along with several other nearby tracts.[267] On December 6, 1869, Benjamin bought the entire southern portion of the old Sunbury common from Jones A. Rowe, this portion including the remains of the "old Fort at Sunbury."[268] Exactly how Rowe was able to obtain title to the southern section of the common in order to sell it to Screven remains a mystery; however, Rowe was apparently the first private "owner" of Fort Defi-, ance.

During his lifetime, Benjamin Screven obtained title to most of the town lots in the southern part of Sunbury. Following his death in 1871, the whole southern portion of Sunbury, along with the southern Sunbury common and the Pole Hall tract, passed to his son, Charles W. Screven.[269] On April 3, 1893, Charles sold his legacy, consisting of 132 acres, to Mrs. Margaret M. Harris, wife of A.J. Harris.[270] Her heirs sold the 132 acres on December 19, 1899, to George W. Parker of Liberty County, who, in turn, conveyed the land to Allen M. Calder on February 15, 1902.[271] The property remained in the hands of Calder until March 27, 1914, when he sold the same acreage to George W. Lowden.[272] Lowden sold the property to Robert A. Calder on February 28, 1916, in whose possession it remained for many years.[273]

On March 9, 1945, Calder sold part of the 132 acres, along with some adjoining marshland, to the Commissioners of Roads and Revenues of Liberty County,[274] who subdivided the tract into smaller lots. On June 14, 1968, they conveyed a large portion of the subdivided tract, including the peninsula on which is located Fort Defiance, to the State of Georgia, to be preserved as a historic site.[275]

The western portion of the town of Sunbury, due to the marshy condition of the area, was never fully settled. In the later years of Sunbury's existence, the western and then the northern and southern areas of the town fell into private hands. William Maxwell and Benjamin S. Screven owned large areas of the old town prior to the War Between the States.[276] Eventually, most of the town site came into the possession of Jones A. Rowe, who sold the northern portion to Charles Prectorius in 1877 and the southern portion to George W. Parker in 1882.[277] Prectorius' estate subsequently sold the northern portion to Gay Green of Asheville, N.C., who conveyed the property in

1938 to Allen A. Stevens.[278] George W. Parker sold the southern portion of the town to John C. Jones of Orange Park, Fla., who subsequently conveyed the property to Allen A. Stevens in 1937.[279] [See Stevens' plat of the southern area of Sunbury, Illustration 19.] Stevens cleared and subdivided much of the overgrown site of Sunbury during the 1940's, and he subsequently sold many of the lots. Today, Stevens' heirs still own part of the town site, while various other private individuals possess the remaining areas.

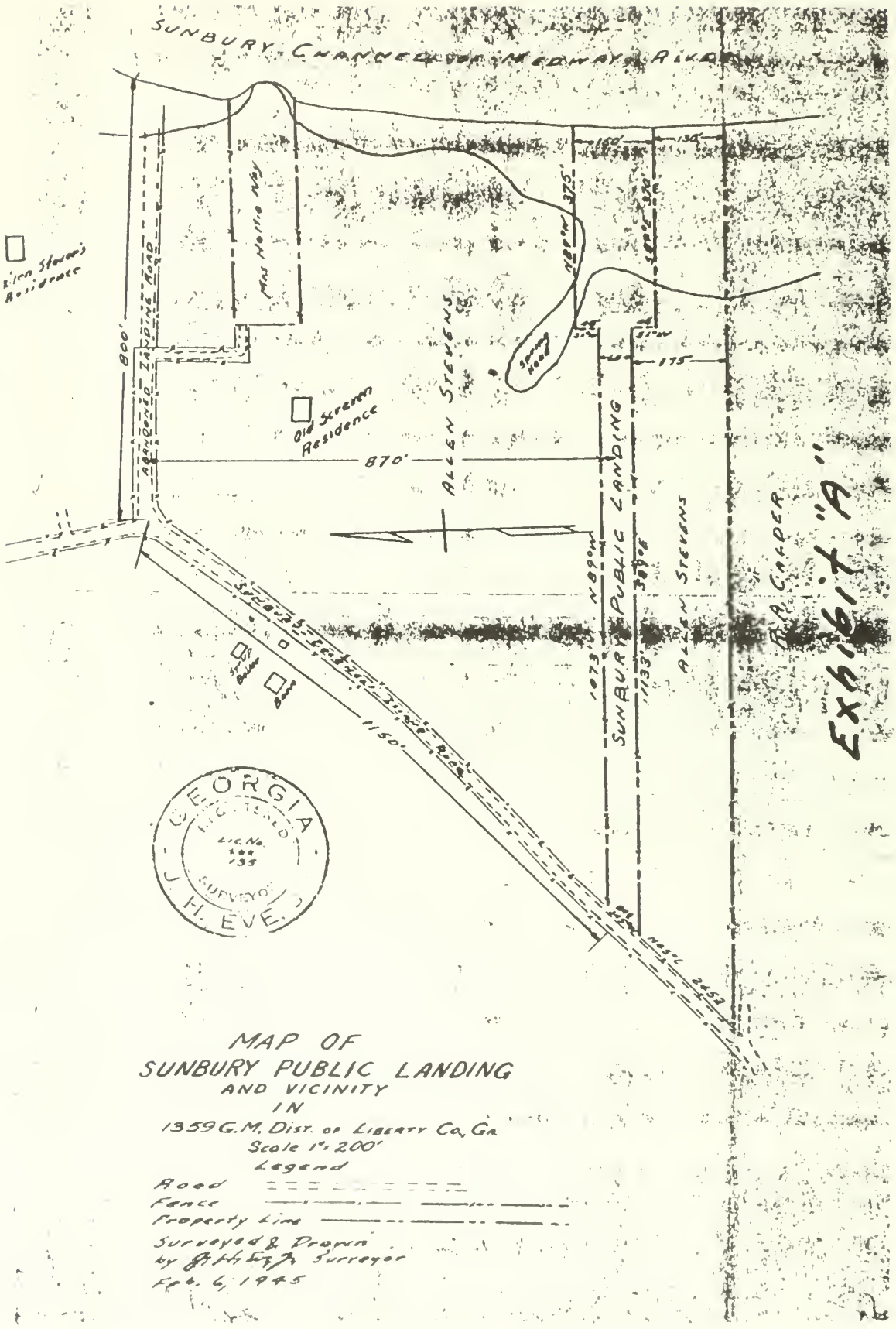



*Illustration 19.*
*Plat of the southern area of the town of Sunbury, 1945*

*Illustration 20*
*View from the Southeast Corner of Earthwork Toward St. Catherines Sound*
*(Photograph by David J. Kaminsky, 1976)*

*Illustration 20*
*View Looking East from the Museum to the Western Wall of the Earthwork*
*Opening in Parapet in the Middle*
*(Photograph by David J. Kaminsky, 1976)*

*Illustration 20*
*View Looking North, with Ditch on the East and Rampart on the Left*
*(Photograph by David J. Kaminsky, 1976)*

*Illustration 20*
*Opening in the Western Wall of the Earthwork, Looking East*
*(Photograph by David J. Kaminsky, 1976)*

*Illustration 20*
*Interior of the Earthwork, Facing Southeast*
*(Photograph by David J. Kaminsky, 1976)*

*Illustration 21*
*Photograph of the Charles Odingsells Screven House*
*in Sunbury, 1961*

# APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

## I. Military Rank Designations and Their Meanings

There are two types of military rank used in this report: Militia and Continental or regular army. Militia rank is always subordinate to regular army rank. Under this system, for example, Continental Colonel John White was superior in rank to Militia Colonel John Elliott.

All Loyalists and Whigs mentioned in this report held Continental rank, except where otherwise noted. Following is a listing of 18th-century army rankings, in decreasing order:

| Rank | Verbal Title | Command |
|---|---|---|
| Lieutenant General (Gen.) | General | Varied |
| Major General (Gen.) | General | Army Commander |
| Brigadier General (Gen.) | General | Brigade Commander |
| Colonel (Col.) | Colonel | Regiment or Battalion Commander |
| Lieutenant Colonel (Lt. Col.) | Colonel | Second in command of a Regiment or Battalion |
| Major (Maj.) | Major | Third in Command of a Regiment or Battalion |
| Captain (Capt.) | Captain | Company Commander |
| First Lieutenant (Lt.) | Lieutenant | Second in Command of a Company |
| Second Lieutenant (Lt.) | Lieutenant | Third in Command of a Company |

## II. Military Figures Mentioned in This Report

### Revolutionary War

Allen, _____. Lieutenant colonel left in charge of the British garrison at Sunbury when General Augustin Prevost left that town for Savannah in January, 1779. Lt. Col. Allen was still in command of the Sunbury Fort several months later when Lt. Col. Cruger was sent from Savannah by General Prevost to reinforce the Sunbury garrison.

Baker, John. Commissioned captain of the St. John's Riflemen, a volunteer company, on January 8, 1776, by the Georgia Council of Safety. During 1776 and 1777, Baker commanded the Third Regiment of Georgia Militia, based in St. John's Parish, with the rank of colonel. From about April, 1777, until August, 1777, he commanded the Georgia Light Horse Regiment, to which position he was reappointed on August 21, 1781. Baker was a leader of the 1777 expedition against East Florida by Georgia Continental and Militia forces. He was also very actively involved in the defense of St. John's Parish and Midway Church in November, 1778, when it was attacked by forces under Lt. Col. J.M. Prevost.

Campbell, Archibald. Lieutenant colonel of the 71st Scottish Regiment, who led the British in their attack and capture of Savannah in December, 1778. For the next three months, Campbell remained in Georgia and succeeded in subduing the patriotic cause in most of the area between Savannah and Augusta. Two regiments of Hessian troops, several battalions of New York Loyalists, and a naval detachment accompanied Campbell to Georgia. The lieutenant colonel left Savannah for England in March of 1779.

Cruger, _____. Lieutenant colonel in command of a New York Loyalist battalion which came to Georgia with Lt. Col. Campbell in 1778. Cruger was sent to Sunbury to reinforce the British garrison there in the spring of 1779. He remained in the town until the American siege of Savannah in October, 1779, when the entire British force in Georgia was removed to Savannah for the protection of the capital city.

Defaupeynet, Jean Pierre André. French volunteer artillery officer sent to Sunbury on December 5, 1777, to instruct Captain Thomas Morris' company of artillery stationed there. Captain "Defau," as he was referred to by Colonel Elbert, was very possibly involved in part of the construction of Fort Morris in Sunbury. He was appointed captain of the Third Company of Artillery, stationed at Savannah, on April 3, 1778. Captain "Defau's" superior officer, Major Charles Noel Romand DeLisle, was responsible for the construction of the American defenses at Savannah.

Dollar, John. Captain lieutenant in the Second Company of Georgia Continental Artillery. He was stationed in Sunbury with this company from 1776

until January, 1779, when the fort was captured by British troops. After the war, Dollar became sheriff of Liberty County. He resided near Sunbury both before and after the Revolution.

Elbert, Samuel. Colonel (and later brigadier general) commanding the Second Georgia Continental Battalion. He was commissioned in July, 1776, and continued to serve until his capture in 1779 at the Battle of Briar Creek. Colonel Elbert was paroled at Sunbury during the summer and fall of 1779. The Second Battalion was extremely active in all three military campaigns against East Florida, as well as in the defense of Midway Church in November, 1778.

Elliott, John. Commissioned July 9, 1777, as lieutenant colonel of the First Battalion, Third Regiment of Georgia Militia. He was elected colonel of the battalion about March, 1778. Colonel Elliott was a lifelong resident of St. John's Parish/Liberty County and was intimately associated with Sunbury.

d'Estaing (Charles-Henri, Comte d'Estaing). Leader of the French forces during the combined American/French attempt to recapture Savannah from the British in October, 1779.

Fuser, Lewis V. Lieutenant colonel commanding the British troops from East Florida in their unsuccessful attempt to capture the fort at Sunbury in November, 1778.

Grimke, John Faucherand. Appointed deputy adjustant general for South Carolina and Georgia with the rank of colonel in November, 1778. His order book contains much information on the military situation at Sunbury subsequent to the first attack on the town by British troops.

Hardy, John. Commissioned captain of a volunteer artillery company at Sunbury on May 15, 1776. On May 23, 1776, he was ordered to bring the guns from Frederica to Sunbury. He later commanded two Continental galleys, the Washington and the Congress, and was in command of the Washington when it captured the British brig, Hinchinbrook, near Frederica in 1778. Captain Hardy was taken prisoner in 1779, shortly after British troops captured Sunbury, but he soon escaped and continued to serve his country for the remainder of the war. He was originally from Pitt County, N.C., but lived in Liberty County for many years.

Howe, Robert. Major general in command of the Continental troops of the American Southern Department (with headquarters in Charleston, S.C.) from 1777 until 1778. He was relieved from his position just as the November, 1778, invasion of Georgia commenced, but he continued to serve as southern commander until his defeat in Savannah in late December. As a result of his activities during the last few months of his command, General Howe was court-martialed; he was acquitted of all charges.

Lane, Joseph. Major in the Third Georgia Continental Battalion. Lane was in command of the fort at Sunbury when it was attacked and captured in January, 1779, by British troops under the command of General Augustin Prevost. Major Lane was consequently captured and paroled at Sunbury as a prisoner of war.

Lee, Charles. Major general in command of the Continental troops of the American Southern Department in 1776. General Lee commanded the patriots' forces in the 1776 campaign against British East Florida. He was replaced in this capacity in 1777 by Maj. Gen. Robert Howe.

Lincoln, Benjamin. Major general in command of the Continental troops of the American Southern Department from 1778 until his defeat and capture at Charleston in 1780. He led the American forces during the siege of Savannah in October, 1779.

McIntosh, John. Lieutenant colonel in the Third Georgia Continental Battalion. Lt. Col. McIntosh was in command of a detachment of the battalion at Sunbury when British forces under Lt. Col. Fuser attacked the town in November, 1778. He was captured in 1779 at the Battle of Brier Creek but was later exchanged.

McIntosh, Lachlan. Brigadier general of the Georgia Continental Army during most of the Revolutionary War. General McIntosh was to lead the 1777 expedition against British East Florida, but he wisely retired from this position at the last minute to prevent a conflict with the Georgia President Button Gwinnett from flaring into a confrontation. Later, the disagreement between McIntosh and Gwinnett resulted in a duel, in which Gwinnett was mortally wounded.

Morris, Thomas. Captain of the Second Continental Company Artillery from 1776 until its capture at Fort Morris in 1779. During the entire three-year interval, the artillery company was stationed in Sunbury. After his capture, Morris was paroled in the town. He died in Matthews County, Va., shortly after the siege of Yorktown.

Moultrie, William. Colonel, brigadier general, and major general in the South Carolina Continental Line. He led troops from South Carolina into Georgia during the 1777 expedition against British East Florida.

Prevost, Augustin. Brigadier general (and later major general) of the British troops in East Florida. He led his forces in a successful attack on Sunbury in January, 1779. He subsequently joined Lt. Col. Campbell in Savannah, where Prevost's superior rank placed him in command of all British soldiers in Georgia for the remainder of the war.

Prevost, Jean Marcus or "Marc." Lieutenant colonel commanding British troops from East Florida in the 1778 campaign against St. John's Parish and Midway Church who accompanied General Prevost, his brother, in the January 1779 attack on Sunbury.

Saxton, Nathaniel. Commissioned captain of a volunteer militia company at Sunbury on May 15, 1776, by the Georgia Council of Safety.

Screven, James. Commissioned captain of the St. John's Rangers, a volunteer company, on January 9, 1776, by the Georgia Council of Safety. During June of 1776, Screven was reported as the commander of the First Battalion, Third Regiment of Georgia Militia. From July, 1776, until March, 1778, he served as the commanding colonel of the Third Georgia Continental Battalion. He resigned his commission in 1778, and from June until October of the same year, he held the position of brigadier general of the Georgia militia. He was mortally wounded in a skirmish during the defense of Midway Church and died on November 22, 1778.

Sheftall, Mordecai. Appointed deputy commissary general of Georgia Continental Issues in August, 1778, he was captured at Savannah in December, 1778, and later paroled at Sunbury.

Walton, George. Appointed brigadier general of the Georgia Militia forces after the death of Brig. Gen. James Screven in November, 1778, General Walton was captured at Savannah in December, 1778. He was later paroled at Sunbury, where he ranked as the senior American officer.

White, John. Colonel in command of the Fourth Georgia Continental Battalion from 1777 until 1779. He led the American Continental troops in the defense of St. John's Parish and Midway Church in November, 1778.

## War of 1812

Bowling, Robert. Major in command of a company of Georgia militia mustered into United States service in February, 1814, and stationed at Sunbury until the late summer of 1814.

Cockburn, George. British admiral in command of the troops who landed on Cumberland Island in 1814, he captured and burned the town of St. Mary's and then marched up the Georgia coast toward the Altamaha River. Upon receiving word of the peace treaty between America and Great Britain, Cockburn and his forces retreated to Florida.

Hamilton, James. Captain of a company of artillery from Hancock County, Ga., which was stationed at Sunbury from October, 1814, until at least February, 1815.

Pinckney, Thomas. Major general commanding the Southern Division of the United States from 1812 until 1815. General Pinckney was deeply involved in the various stages of military activity in Sunbury during the War of 1812. Although he apparently never visited the town in person, he worked closely with the Liberty County residents concerning the construction of the fort at Sunbury and the general defense of the county.

Swift, Joseph G. Major, colonel, and general in the United States Corps of Engineers, Swift served as chief of engineers from July 31, 1812, until November 21, 1818. At three different times during and after the war, he ordered an investigation into the existing defenses at Sunbury.

APPENDIX B

I.

The following is a letter dated January 18, 1779, from Major General Augustin Prevost to Lord George Germain [Public Records Office, America and West Indies, Vol. 155, p. 45; reproduced in Stevens' Facsimilies, #1251].

Savannah 18th January 1779

My Lord

I think it my duty to acquaint Your Lordship, that pursuant to General Sir Henry Clinton's Orders of 20th October received November 27th following:

I collected all the Troops of every kind which could possibly be spared from the necessary number for defence of the Fort and Garrison of St. Augustine.

Permite me my Lord to mention to the praise of the Troops now with me the unexampled distress under which they have laboured for a number of Weeks for want of Provisions, their spirited excurtions at a very great distance in a Country extreamly difficult of access; and the Chearfulness with which for days together under the most severe fatigues, they lived only on Oysters, all resources of every kind being exhausted notwithstanding all the industry and activity of Lieut. Col. Prevost who exerted every sinew to relieve our wants, not a word of Complaint was heared, the anxiety to share the toils of reducing Georgia and to promote the Kings service made everything easy and was patiently borne by the Men who saw that their officers had no better fare than themselves; at last when the joyful News came that the Troops from the Northward were arrived off the Coast, those with me were soon ready to cooperate with them; our Artillery and ammunition coming by Water in open boats the only possible conveyance as we were unassisted by any kind of Naval force retarded us some time as we were oblidged to take a long Circuit to avoid the enemies Galleys however the Activity of Lt. Col. Prevost who had made a forced March in the night and Surrounded the Town of Sunbury to prevent the enemy from escaping in case they designed to abandon the Fort, afforded us some means of bringing a Howitzer and some Royals with which we soon Oblidged them to surrender the Garrison & Fort at Discretion; the Prisoners including the officers amounted to Two Hundred and Twelve, and an armed Vessell forcing at our Trenches for three days besides twenty one pieces of Cannon mounted in the Fort; after settling a Garrison in it and

ordering the necessary repairs I proceeded to Savannah to take the Command of the Army come from the Northward....

I have only enclosed to your Lordship the Return of the Troops I brought with me from Florida, with the Return of the Garrison of Fort Morris now Fort George, and the state of the Ordnance and Stores taken there# --

I have the Honour to be with the greatest Respect# -- #My Lord,

Your Lordships Most Obedient and
Most Humble Servant

A. Prevost.

II.

The following is a letter dated January 19, 1799, from Major General Augustin Prevost to Sir Henry Clinton, General and Commander-in-Chief of His Majesty's Troops in North America [Historical MSS Commission of Great Britain; microcopy found in Charlton Papers in South Carolina Archives, Columbia, S.C.; photocopy in Historic Preservation Section. (See footnote #114.)] Accompanying the letter is Prevost's return of the troops and ordnance captured in the Sunbury fort.

Savannah 19th January 1779

Sir

The many difficulties attending the progress of his Majesty's Troops from Florida such as the impracticability of the Roads, the deficiency in point of Boats and craft to convey the Troops and Artillery, the total want of Provisions, have not prevented our progress to this place, these defficulties were surmounted with Patience and Chearfulness.

On the 7th Instant the Troops that came by Water landed seven miles from Sunbury, just at the very time when the parties of Horse and Rangers had arrived to the Neighbourhood of that Town, Lt. Col. Prevost who had marched that night, with the loss of one man only effected the surrounding of the place and did not quit his station notwithstanding the fire of two Galleys an armed Schooner and the Fort, untill the rest of the Troops arrived; the Artillery cou'd not come the same way the Troops did, as it was necessary to march under cover of the night close under the Fort, the Artillery therefore was sent round to New Port River and with great difficulties an 9 Inch howitzer and two Royals, were brought on the 9th and begun to fire the next morning; before Evening the same day the Fort was oblidged to surrender at discretion being then only a hundred & forty Yards from the Body of the place; their intended retreat on board their Galleys being prevented, we had possession of the gate and entered the Fort next morning, twenty one pieces of Artillery with stores & Provisions, two pair of Colours, and two hundred & twelve Prisoners including the officers, fell into our hands; the Galleys had made their excape but thinking from some preperations on board of some Vessels that we had taken and a number of boats that they saw manned, that we intended to attack them, they set fire to them and made their escape to sea. -The Crews are since brought Prisoners into

Savannah having been met by an armed Vessel.

Our want of any kind of assistance from the Naval department prevented us from taking them and made us loose four or five days in Sunbury as we were obliged for the security of our Boats to send them a great ways round, and had no horses or Carts till a few days after to bring the stores and baggage.

The Troops marched to this place and reached it on the 17th and as soon as they can possibly be provided with a few necessities of which they stand in the utmost need, I shall endeavor to improve the advantages his Majestys Troops have hitherto obtained....

I transmit herewith to Your Excellency the returns of the Troops collected from East Florida# -- #the Return of the ordnance and Stores taken in Sunbury, and the state of the Rebel Garrison in Fort Morris now Fort George and a Memorial sent by Lt. Col. Dickson of the 16th Regiment.

I have the honour to be with the Greatest Respect, Sir

Your Excellencys Most Obedient
and Most Humble Servant

A. Prevost

P.S. Captain Donald McDonald of the 3d Battn. 60th Regiment died at Sunbury the 11th instant.

A Return of the Garrison in Fort Morris commanded by Major Lane the 10th of January 1779 -

| | Commissioned Officers | | | Staff Officers | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Majors | Captains | Lieutenants | Adjutants | Qr. Masters | Surgeons | Mates | Serjeants | Drums | Rank of File |
| Continental Troops | 1 | 3 | 7 | 1 | | | | 12 | 1 | 129 |
| Sunbury Militia... | | 1 | 2 | | | | | 2 | | (42) |
| | 1 | 4 | 9 | | | | | 14 | | 172 |

Aug. Prevost

David Rees Judge Advocate
David Flemming Ass. (Qr. Mr.) General
Francis Coddington Com.ry of Issues
David Austin Com.ry of d[itto]
Isaac Introbus Com.ry of the Hospital
Jonath. Holden Waggon Master

Return of Brass & Iron Ordnance of Ordnance Stores in Fort Morris/ now Fort George at Sunbury in Georgia, 13th January 1779 -

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Brass | 7 Inch Mortars | 1 |
| | 18 Pounders | 2 |
| | 12.....d | 6 |
| | 9.....d | 1 |
| | 4.....d | 7 |
| | 3.....d | (8) |
| Iron Guns | 18 ps | 2 |
| | 12 d | 6 |
| Garrison (Carridges) | 9 d | 1 |
| | 4 d | 4 |
| | 3 | 7 |
| | 18 ps | 227 |
| | 12 d | 204 |
| Round Shot | 9 | 29 |
| | 4 | 220 |
| | 3 | 144 |
| | 18 ps | 4 |
| | 12 d | (8) |
| Case of Grape Shot | 9 | 3 |
| | 4 | 45 |
| | 3 | 40 |
| | 18 ps | 2 |
| Ladles of Wad Hooks | 12 | 7 |
| | 9 | 1 |
| | 4 | 3 |
| | 3 | 5 |
| Small Arms | Musquet with Bayonets | 100 |
| | Rifles | 12 |
| | Fuzes of Carbines | 40 |
| | Wall Peices | 4 |
| Empty Shells | 4 2/5 | 30 |
| | Hand Granades fixed | 50 |
| Ball Cartriges | Musquet | 3000 |
| | Carbine | 500 |
| Powder | Barrels | 20 |
| | Musquet Ball (etc) | 1150 |
| Lead | Pigs (etc.) | 1000 |
| | Musquet | 400 |
| Flints | Carbine | 80 |
| | Cartriges Boxes | 150 |
| | Pouches with Powder Horns | 72 |
| | Claw Handspikes | 30 |

Capt. L.R. [?]

III.

The following is a letter dated February 22, 1779, from Major Joseph Lane to Benjamin Lincoln, commander of the Southern Department [Emmet Collection, #6717, New York Public Library (see footnote 108)]. Accompanying the letter is Lane's return of the American troops captured at Sunbury.

Feby. 22, 1779

Sir

This being the first Opportunity (since the Surrender of Fort Morris at Sunbury) of conveying you an authentic account by permission of the honble B. Genl. Prevost I gladly embrace it.

Doubtless many reports blended with truth & falsehood have alternately prevailed - but what general construction & information, has had the ascendant is not possible for me in my present situation to imagine.

On the 27th. & 28th. decemr. 78, I received two several expresses from Genl. Howe dated at Savannah intimating to me the good situation & force of the Army he then commanded & the expected reinforcements from So. Carolina - at the same time enclosing a deputation from the Q.M.G. to impress Waggons, Negroes, Horses &ca. and everything of importance to render the Fort as tenable & defensible as possible.

Entirely devoted to and busy in this employment, another Express dated 29th. decer. Cherokee Hill (& receiv'd 30th. P.M.) most pressingly & peremtorily commanded an evacuation of the Fort - informing Me of the retreat of the Confederat Army to So. Carolina &ca.

Having received this express as above written, not a moment was neglected in issuing out the necessary Orders to evacuate the Fort, sending expresses to the outposts advanc'd to the southward of Sunbury at Newport ferry & Col's Island which was not effected 'till the next morning being 31st december.

It was not 'till this moment I discovered the precariousness of my Situation and the impracticability of executing Genl. Howe's Orders immediately; being totally unacquainted with the Country myself not an Officer or soldier under my command of better knowledge of the roads than myself- A detachment of the Enemy in possession of Ogechie-ferry - the only crossing place I knew of - and having receiv'd intelligence that the Enemys Rangers were to

the Westward on Conouchie - & Genl. Prevost with a considerable body of Men landing on Col's Island - and the Idea of the Troops under Col. Campbell, throwing themselves into the main road up to Augasta - my Expresses in various parts intercepted - reconoitering parties without exception taken - In this dilemma having still some distant hope & prospect of effecting a retreat, I had recourse to the Inhabitants of the Town and in a full assembly of Citizens communicated my intention to evacuate the Garrison and intreated their assistance in furnishing a skilful Guide to conduct my rout high up the Country to So. Carolina - but to my great disappointment & mortification not a Man present knew any such rout, nor could they even recommend to me a person equal to this task. Determin'd still (while the least seeming of success appeard) to retreat with the Garrison to So. Carolina, I formed a secret design of making Beaufort by the Washington & Lee [actually Bullock] Gallies which were under way from Ogeechie Inlet to Sunbury. They hove in sight 4th day of Jany & anchor'd at & never came up 'till next morning at which time Genl. Prevost had fully invested the Town & Garrison. Having communicated my design to the Offrs. of the Gallies - & consulting with other maritime Officers - I met with the decisive mortification of being inform'd that the Gallies could not put to Sea - Necessitated to make a Virtue of Misfortune I ultimately formed a resolution of defending the Fort to the last extremity, fully confident that all communication with the Confederate Army was cut off the Enemy almost in compleat possession of the State &ca.

The Enemy on their first appearance in the Town, threw themselves in a ditch which run paralel to the Fort about 100 Toises [213 yards] from behind which a loose irregular firing of Musquetry continually annoy'd us for 4 days & altho' a heavy fire from the Parapets - every piece of Ordnance that could bear on them was supported by the fort to dislodge them yet there was no successful impression made -

The enemy taking position in two angles of the fort which were unflank'd cover'd by a ditch in one and a flesh Battery on the other - made every preparation for a bomdardment - On the 9th. of Jany. a Summons was sent by the enemy of which the subsequent is a Copy.

Sir

My desire to save the Lives of many men induces me to acquaint you that the Batteries are now opened and ready to do execution, it is in your power to accept of my Offers and to prevent the Mischief that will be done, an immediate surrender will prevent extremeties I would wish to avoid, in half an hours time the firing will begin after which all consequences attending a fruitless & obstinate resistance must be owing to you. I am Sir

Yr. Most Obt. Hmb Servt.
A. Prevost, Brigr. Genl. &
Commr. in Chief of the
British Troops in Georgia

Sunbury Friday 9th Januy 1779
10 OClock A.M.

To majr. Lane or Offr. Commg. in fort Morris

Sunbury

Answer to the above & Return of Flag. Vizt.

Sir

As you demand of the Surrender of the fort is immediate & unconditional, I have only time to answer in the Negative I am Sir

Yr. Most. Obt. Hum. Servt.
Commg. the Contl. Troops
at Fort Morris

9th Jany. 1779
To A Prevost, B.G. Commr. in Chief

But notwithstanding this display of Strength & the threatened execution from the Batteries, I was willing to conceive that the Enemy only meant to intimidate & perswade the Garrison into an unconditional Submission when force would prove inefectual, prompted by this Idea & the good Countenance of the Garrison by the return of the Flag I sent the foregoing Answer -

To this a Verbal reply was made that the 'Artillery should be play'd with the utmost Violence and no Quarter given unless the fort immediately Surrender'd' & before I had compleated an Answer by Letter to the Genl. the firing began from two royals behind the aforemention'd ditch which altho' well directed and a Number of Shells burst in the fort near the Magazine - yet the Enemy deriv'd no advantage - nor did the Garrison sustain the least annoyance from them - but this address was only design'd to amuse while an 8 inch howitzer was opening on another angle from an old Battery hinted at above - Nothing but the force of Bombs could have convinc'd me of the superiority of the Enemy - the S. Wing of the Barracks in the fort were soon in flames from the Battery - and three of the Garrison wounded & one kill'd. Convinc'd that the fort was untenable & a further resistance could cause the loss of the lives of many brave Men, & Experience prov'd that no advantage would accrue to us - a Parley was beat to demand a greater length of time & more honourable conditions - which were refused, by a continued fire from the ditch & Batteries. But resolv'd at all hazards never to surrender to an Enemy unconditionally - a Second Parley was beat which occasioned a cessation of Arms for about an hour. In which time the following were agreed upon -

'the Garrison to surrender prisoners of War - the Officers & Men

to retain their Baggage now in the fort - None but Brittish Troops to enter the Fort -

This Parley was design'd merely to detain & amuse the Enemy 'till the Gallies which were then under way could outreach the Guns of the Fort which was effected & by that means escap'd falling into the Enemy's hands. The next morning in sight of the Fort they blew up and the Crews set sail for So. Carolina in a Sloop which I have been informd since was captur'd by a Tender belonging to the Spitfire Brig -

The whole Garrison in number 159 Continental Troops as pr. inclosd return & 45 Militia were sent to Savannah and after a short Stay there the privates & Non Commissd. Offrs. Sent on board the prison Ships & the Commissd. Officers countermarch'd to Sunbury where they Still remain

It is not possible for me to inform you of the loss of the Enemy in this action - They say they lost but three Killd - but from my own knowledge I am well satisfy'd the loss was greater.

I have sir the honor to be
sir your most obedt humble servt

Jos Lane Majr. 3 B

Sunbury 22 Feby. 79

A Return of the Garrison in Fort Morris commanded by Major Joseph Lane, January 9th, 79, made prisoners by B. Genl. Prevost.

---

Second Company of Georgia Artillery

| | Major | Captns. | Subtns. | Surgeon | Qr. Mastr. | Judge Advocate | Serjts | Fifers | Drummrs | Waggoners | Bowmen | Privates | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Thomas Morris | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| John Dollar Captain Lieut | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Philo Henley 1st Lieut | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | |
| John Walmore Qr Mr Serjt | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | |
| John Ponchier | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | |
| Samuel Boyd | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | |
| Samuel Peck | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | |
| Daniel Hovey Corporl | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | |
| John Burch | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | |
| Henry Read | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | |
| Thomas Bond | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | |
| William Curtis | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | |
| John Webb | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| Robert Kenny | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| Dominic Gerold | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| John Newman | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| William Taylor | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| Thomas Davis | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| Luke Paul | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| William Thomas | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| John Campbell | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| George Davis | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| John Wright | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| Saml. Harrison | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| William Tanner | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| John Finley | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |

| Return of the Third Georgia Battalion. | Major | Captn. | Subaltern | Surgn Mate | Judg Advocate | Qr. Mastr. | Serjts. | Fifers | Drummers | Wagon Master | Bowmen | Privates | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Joseph Lane | 1 | | | | | | Signed Jos. | | | Lane Majr. | | | 3 B. |
| Rains Cook | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| John Meanly First Lieut.t | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Josiah Maxwell Second Lt | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | |
| John Peter Wagnon Third Lt | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | |
| David Rees | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | V 2 |
| Ebenezer Calender | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | |
| Davis Austin Commissary of Issues | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| David Fleming | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | |
| Jonathan Holden | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | |
| Nathan Northington Qr. Mr Serjt. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| James Hays Serjt. | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | |
| Benjamin Wall | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | |
| David Wilson | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | |
| Nocholas Bond Corporal | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| John Petillo | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| Michael Cogbourn | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| Camp Burnell | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| Henry Pigg | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| John Masters | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| William Harnass | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| Swan Saunders | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| James Mills | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| William Perdue | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| William Allgood | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| David Motley | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| Herbert Vines | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| William Tucker | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| John Bush | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| Joseph Pearson | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| Valentine Perry | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| Wiott Hunley | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| James Davis | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| Jesse Hall | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| Thomas Hinds | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| Peter Stuart | | | | | | | | | | V | 2 | 1 | |
| Burgess Moor | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| Richard York | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| Peter Jones | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |

| Return of the Third Georgia Battalion (continued) | Major | Captns. | Subalts. | Surgns. | Judge Advocate | Qr. Mastr. | Serjts | Fifers | Drummers | Waggon Master | | Privates | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Henry Smith | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| Obadiah Plumley | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| Solomon Jones | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| Harris Mullen | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| John Rickmon | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| Richard Biorton | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| Zackariah Reed | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| Fourth Georgia Battalion | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Walter Dixon | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Christopher Hillary | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | |
| James Brown | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Charles Millen [Miller?] | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | |
| John Burnett | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| Daniel McGinnis | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| John Private | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| Joseph Read | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| James McDannell | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| Thomas Dixon | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| Richard Savage | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| Ludrick Handgarter | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| Henry Fisher | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| John Campbell | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| Joseph Webster | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| James Combs | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |

| Third So. Carolina Battalion. | Major | Captns | Subalts. | Surgns. | Judge Advocate | Qr. Mastr. | Serjts | Fifers | Drummers | Waggon Master | | Privates | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| James Robinson 2d Lt. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| John McMahon | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Hartwell Husky | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| John Edmundson | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| William Williamson | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Mark Hodges | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| George Hightown | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Isaac Scott | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Thomas Harper | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Benjamin Davis | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| William Sprowle | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Thomas Burns | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| John McLean | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Michael Davis | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Curtis Winfield | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Philip Miller | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Absalom Dean | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| William Hunter | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| James Cunningham | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| William Thomas | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Thomas Gready | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Thomas Condon | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Carter Donahoe | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Hezekiah Davis | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| James Hilton | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Benja. Campbell | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Peter Watson | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Benjamin Harrison | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Francis Coddington C.P.
Anhobus C.P.

I certify the above List to be
exact & agreable to inspection

J.M. Prevost
Lt. Col. 60th Regt.

Sunbury 12th Jany. 1799

Sunbury Militia Company made prisoners by B.G. Prevost
9th Jany. 79.

Officers
- John Kell Captain
- William Watson 2d Lieut.
- George Cabbage 1st Lieut of a Company in Chatham County

Serjt.
- James Hamilton
- John Simpson

Privates

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | Matthias Lapina | Henry Waggoner |
| | Jeremiah Dickinson | ~~James Flemming~~ |
| | William Davis | ~~William Patterson~~ |
| | Wm. Bennet Senr. | ~~Henry Manly~~ |
| x | Wm. Peacock Senr. | Jean Piriart |
| | Samuel Davis | Jean Chanier |
| x | Thos. Dickinson | Antonio Arlas |
| | John Cabbage | Antonio Vouffy |
| | Adam Confey | Julien Duchatcaif |
| | David Mott | |
| x | Stafford Somersall | |
| x | William Wallace | |
| | Samuel Main | |
| | John Gilchrist | |
| | Willm. Sallat | |
| | Wm. Maconchy | |
| | John Duker | |
| x | Wm. Peacock Junr. | |
| | Adam Gray | |
| x | John Graves | |
| | Jacob Christopher | |
| | Joseph Still | |
| | Roger Lawson | |
| | Alexr. Stuart | |
| | Stephen Jenkins | |
| | Jacob Vernon | |
| | John Glazier | |
| | Jeremiah Plumer | |
| | Edward Mahorn Senr. | |
| | Richard Stevens | |
| x | James Lancaster | |
| | Vincent Gray | |
| x | John Howell | |
| x | Francis Blackrole | |

I certify the above number of forty five to be exact.

J.M. Prevost
Lt. Colo. 60th Regt.

Sunbury 12 Jany. 1799.

Jos Lane

Majr. 3 G.B.

Endorsed:
Major Lane's Letter from Georgia together with a return of the Prisoners taken at Sunbury Feb. 22.

Endorsed by Dr. Emmet in pencil: "From the Papers of Genl. Lincoln."

IV.

The following is extracted from the Memoirs of Major Patrick Murray, pp. 306-11 [see Footnote 81].

'In the beginning of November 1778 Major Prevost with all the Cavalry, East Florida Rangers, South Carolina Royalists and McGirth's men, with the Grenadiers of the 2nd. Battalion, and 70 chosen men of the 3rd, amounting in all to 750 men with a 4-1/2 inch Cohorn mounted on a Congreve Carriage [issued orders as follow]: -

'The Cavalry to proceed to Sapelo to wait for the Infantry, and from thence to proceed jointly to Medway, to attack Sunbury in conjunction with Lieutenant Colonel Fuser, who proceeded along the inland communication with 250 men of the 4th. Battalion, the armed Flat Thunderer of 2 24 pounders, and 2 Swivels; while the Privateers Spitfire and Aligator were to alarm the Seaboard.

'November 24. Colonel Fuser landed at Colonel's Bluff at the mouth of Newport, where he learned that, 2 Privateer's [sic] men having deserted and given the alarm, 300 men had been marched to Sunbury. The Colonel mounted the 2 Swivels on a cart, by way of carriage and leaving 60 men to guard the boats, proceeded towards Sunbury with 180 men receiving shots from their look-out men who fled to the woods whenever Ensign Shoedde [Ensign C.L.T. Schoedde of the 4th Battalion] with the flanking party advanced upon them. There was no firing on our part except by 3 or 4 of Brown's Rangers acting as guides. When we came to the marsh which divides the Island from the main, and is passable at low water, the detachment was ordered to form at open order, there being wood beyond the marsh, and the Medway on the right. Captain Murray was ordered forward to cover the left flank and clear the wood: Captain Wulf with his Grenadiers to support them. No enemy appearing, the D[tachment] marched on towards the left among some small trees to the Newport road, when in answer to our Drum, a shout was heard of 'God save King George,' and whooping like Indians moving towards Medway meeting.

'We bivouacked at night on the slope of the rising ground opposite the fort and made fires in our rear which was considerably more elevated, so that when our Drums beat the Retreat they fired several cannon shot at our fires over our heads. This salute being performed, Colonel Fuser and Captain Wulf went close to the Fort to reconnoitre. They found it well provided with heavy guns and men, but no appearance of a gate on that side; that towards the sea was known to have a battery of 18 pounders. Captain Murray was sent with his Light Company to try

if he could not get into the town, which he did from the Medway Road, where we met with a lighted house outside the town, where we found our old Nassau acquaintance the Doctor and his two daughters. He said he would not leave his house as all the town had done, because [he] considered himself on parole.

'On entering the town a light appeared at the water-side, which we took for a guard at the wharf. Ensign Schoedde's party advancing in the dark to take it, found it to be a galley at anchor, it being high water, but the night being very dark and our men silent they were not seen and joined us in the Courthouse which Captain Murray had taken post in. Lieutenant Campbell was despatched [sic] to the Bivouac and Colonel Fuser took possession of a Merchant's house where a puncheon of rum was broached, with other refreshment he distributed among the D[etachment] but no plundering allowed. Although Captain Wulff patrolled the town up to the Citadel without finding a gate, only 2 men were found, all the rest having taken refuge in the Fort; every now and then they fired great guns at our fires while our men occupied six houses with stores for 18 hours.

'Captain Johnstone of Brown's Rangers pushed on to Medway meeting, and returned in the morning reporting that Major Prevost had pushed on to Ogeechee. Ensign Schoedde was posted 3 miles on the Medway road to look out. Colonel Fuser summoned the Fort allowing an hour; in two hours Colonel McIntosh sent Major Lane with a spirited answer. An American Detachment entered by the Newport road and it being highwater, Colonel Fuser would not suffer us to attempt to storm the Fort, but drew out the Detachment until Ensign Schoedde's party was with-drawn; the Light Company in front of the line at open order. The D[etachment] then filed off by Medway road [after] a few shot from our Rangers, and the Light Company closing the march and leaving the astonished enemy who durst not disturb us. When we turned to the left and passed the pond behind the town two or three shots were fired at us, [but] we proceeded to our boats without any interruption. There he received a letter by a Ranger from Major Prevost that General Scriven [sic] was killed and that he [himself] had retired to Newport with his prizes, negroes, horses, cattle and other effects, that he had broken down the bridges in his rear, and could not join to return to Sunbury. Colonel Fuser's D[etachment] crossed to the S[outh] side of Newport. Captain Murray went up the river with one man in a canoe, landed one mile below the bridge, and found them with Geese, Turkeys, Pigs, Fowls &c: roasting around their fires. Major Prevost read a letter to Captain Murray purporting to have been dropped on the road, which he allowed Captain Murray to read but would not let him copy. His prizes had filed off to the rear. Captain Murray rejoined Colonel Fuser about 1 in the morning and copied the letter from memory; when compared with the original afterwards, there was only two words different.

Officers went out with Ensign Schoedde and Campbell to catch horses and hunt cattle. About 2 P.M. 26 head of cattle were brought in and slaughtered for the army.

'[Then] Ensign Schoedde set out for Colonel's Bluff, but by mistake ran up Newport River; when Major Prevost arrived near the Bluff with Captain Moncrief the Engineer they were challenged and fired at. They therefore lay upon their oars until the 4th Battalion Light Company came up and landed, when the enemy's look-out galloped off. Captain Murray advanced to the wood where he formed the chain at extended order to cover the landing. In less than an hour the 16th. and 4th. Battalion Light Company were despatched [sic] to Sunbury, where our Cavalry were supposed to be investing the place; but none appearing Captain Murray entered, and the advance took post in the ditch of the intrenchment which covered the town. A ranger guide reconnoitring [sic] too near the fort was killed, and we took post in the ditch of the entrenchment, opposite the Fort.

'The next morning 23 horses were sent out of the fort when a Sergeant with a few men drove in the escort and the horses were captured. Soon after Mr. Roderic Mackintosh accompanied by his faithful Negro Cyrus, disdaining the counsel of Cyrus, walked under the musketry of the Garrison, setting them at defiance, when they shot him down and disarmed him so quickly that Lieutenant Baron Breitenbach and Sergeant Supman of the 4th. Battalion Light Infantry who with alacrity ran to his rescue could only carry him in wounded in the face. As soon as our men seized him the Americans ceased firing.

'General Prevost came that day with the remainder of the troops, two 8-inch Howitzers and a Cohorn. The gallies when the tide was high, fired into the town, as did the fort. On the 3rd. day the enemy attempted a small sally which Major Graham drove in; three men of the 16th were wounded, not dangerously. Sergeant Balany Royal Artillery threw some shells at the gallies, which dislodged them, and a shell fell upon a building where the rebel Officers messed, and killed and wounded 9 of them, and shattered about 50 stand of arms; upon which they proposed to capitulate; which being refused and 2 more shells falling into the fort, they hauled their colours down and surrendered at discretion. Captain Moncrief received a contusion in the breast. The gallies made for the Bar: Captain MacDonald [Captain Donald McDonald of the 3rd Battalion] mounted guard in the Fort with the 3rd. [Battalion] Grenadier Company and next morning Captain Wulff relieved him with those of the 4th. [Battalion]. Captain Macdonald delivered his report to the General and dropped down dead at his feet. The Garrison with their Commander Major Lane embarked for Savannah. They, with prisoners brought in by our mounted rangers might amount to between 300 and 400. Lieutenant Colonel Allen was left at Sunbury with the Jersey Volunteers. Mr. Mackintosh was appointed Captain of the Fort, he lost the use of his eye.

'Major Prevost when on St. Mary's North side had a public sale of his booty which amounted to £8000 and halted at St. John's river. Colonel Fuser fell back 1st. to Sapelo next to Frederica; then to Jekyl, covering the retreat of Major Prevost's division. After all his craft had passed down the Altamaha Colonel Fuser crossed St. Andrew's Sound, and at the Narrows he received orders to wait at the south end of Cumberland for General Prevost and all the troops of the Garrison except 4 Companies of the 3rd. Battalion who were to remain with Major Glazier. General Prevost was also accompanied by 3 Companies of the Jersey Volunteers who had parted company with Colonel Campbell's Division from New York under L.C. Allen.

'The Army proceeded from the South end of Cumberland Island, but the Quarter Master General Prevost having disposed of the Cattle and other provisions the army was reduced to subsist on oysters, and a very scanty supply of rice from the new made Commissary Fatia. On the 2nd. [February 1779] afternoon a gale of wind in the South between Cumberland and Jekyl drove back all the flotilla to the old port St. Andrew's except Ensign Finlay's canoe of the 3rd Battalion which reached Jekyl, and Major Prevost's, Captain Murray's and Captain Muller's which reached little Cumberland. One boat of the Jersey Volunteers joined Major Prevost from a desert Island between the two Cumberlands, and for three days we were subsisted on an Aligator and some Madeira wine from a Ship that had been wrecked on the coast. Messrs. Birch of Liverpool to whom the vessel had belonged presented the troops with a pipe of Madeira for collecting those that lay scattered along the Beach. When our boats reached Jekyl we were served with horseflesh.

'The General despatched [sic] Major Graham with the 3 Companies of the 16th., and Captain Murray's Company with Ensign Schoedde's party to take the rice stores on Broughton Island and then to push on for Sapelo high bluff where they were to wait for the General and in the meantime kill cattle for the army. Ensign Schoedde went up the south bay of Sapelo and made the guard of 7 men prisoners. Captain Murray going to support him, met him with his prisoners, and they all followed the Major by the inland passage. When they had got on about 6 miles, it being moonlight, they heard voices approaching with oars, but soon discovered it to be Major Graham who had mistaken the passage and was obliged to retrograde into Doboy Sound to rectify his mistake. Captain Murray pushed on to Sapelo Indigo work, whence taking 30 men with Baron Breitenbach and Ensign Schoedde and not finding any Gallies at the Salt Depot of the enemy, they proceeded along the avenue that led to the house, keeping in the shade. Ensign Schoedde entered their guard house, and made the guard Prisoners without any noise. Sergeant Dornseif and two men changed clothes with the prisoners, and very cooly mounted the stairs to the look-out at the top of the house and relieved the Sentry. Then Lieutenant David Montaigut the Commandant who with all in the house, the sentinel excepted, were fast asleep, was waked; two young Georgian

'The Flank Companies except the Grenadiers of the 4th. who escorted the prisoners by the inland passage marched to Savannah by Medway and Ogeechee, and the General was escorted by a party of Dragoons from Colonel Campbell's mounted Infantry; while our Rangers scoured the country in their front. One galley blew up on Sunbury bar; a sloop and 2 galleys were taken by our cruisers and a ship in the harbour.

'At Savannah we learned that our General was promoted to the rank of Major General, and our troops were called the Florida Brigade under Lieutenant Colonel Prevost; and Major Gardner 16th. commanded our three Light Companies, and Major Glazier the Grenadiers; Major Van Braam the Battalion men of the 16th. and 60th. Colonel Fuser being senior to Colonel Campbell was sent to command at Augustine. 2 days after our arrival at Savannah, Colonel Compbell [sic] was detached with about 1000 men who advanced to Augusta, but hearing that the American General Williamson was advancing with a superior force he unaccountably fell back to Hudson's ferry, and soon after embarked for England, with Commodore Hyde Parker in the Phoenix with a rich prize ship loaded with indigo.

# APPENDIX C

I.

The following is the 1785 tax return for Sunbury District, Liberty County. The return was copied by James A. LeConte in the Liberty County Courthouse. The original has since been lost. Only the names were copied.

Benjamin Andrew, Esqr.
Andrew Maybank & Co.
Francis Coddington
John Mitchell Sen'r.
Estate of John Kell
Estate of Thomas Morris
Amelia Kelsall
John Hardy
Peter Donworth
Nathan Brownson
William Peacock Sen'r.
Josiah Powell
Adam Alexander
William Woodward
Catherine Collins
William T. Jones
Grace Carr & Co.
Estate of Samuel Miller
John Graves
John Andrew and Co.
Estate of Joseph McGowen
William Peacock Jun'r.
Thomas White
Joseph Way, weaver
[page torn] Howell
Henry Myers
Nathaniel Bacon
Leonard Jurdine
Thomas Way
Stafford Somersall
Pray & Foster
Peter Hoffmire
Nathaniel Saxton & Co.
John Baker, Col'
Davis Austin
John Lawson, Sen'r.
Joseph Stitt
John McCain
John Ellerbe
Elizabeth Munro
Alexander McIver
Thomas Maxwell
John Lawson, Jun'r.
Michael Rudolph
John Jackson
Jas. Cole & Thos. Elliott
Peter Vandyk
John Pray

Defaulters

David Duncan
Joel Walker
John Couper
Colin McIver
Artemas Baker
Pindexter Tollock
Alexander Bissett
Gilbert Harrison
Jonathan Holden
John Webb
Joseph Austin
James Austin
Elisha Miller
John Blackstock
Stephen Files
Sol. Hunter
James Cole
William Jurdine
John Patterson Kirkland
John Myers, Sen'r.
Isaac Wood
Philip Low
Peter Vandyk
John Timmons
William Myers
John Wicks

The following names were scratched off with pen on the copy made:

Artemas Baker
Gilbert Harrison
James Cole
John Patterson Kirkland

"Return of vessels entering and paying Tonage [sic] & Dutys [sic] agreably [sic] to the Import Act at the Collectors Office for the Port of Sunbury."

| Date of Arrival | Vessels Name | Commanders Name | from where | where belonging | Tons | Amt. Duty on Cargo | Whole Amt. of Duties & Tonage |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1787 Aug.15th | Sloop William | Robert Wylie | St. Croix | Daneish Bottom | 44. | 10. 20. 0. | 13. 13. 0. |
| " 25th | Schooner Succy & Sophia | Richard Beebe | Guadalupe | American Ditto | 37. | 2. 19. 5. | 5. 14. 7. |
| " 27th | Sloop Dispatch | Andrew Carman | Charleston | Ditto Do | 40. | " " " | 3. 0. 0. |
| Septem. 6th | Schooner Little David | James Rea | Ditto | Ditto Do | 40. | 3. 5. 9. | 6. 5. 9. |
| " 17th | Sloop Ch.ton Tauket | James Cuthbert | Ditto | Ditto Do | 50. | 10. 6. 5. | 14. 7. 3. |
| " 18th | Schooner Two Friends | Thomas Holmes | Ditto | Ditto Do | 40. | " " " | 3. |
| " 20th | Brigt Neptune | Thomas Coats | Ditto | Ditto Do | 104. | " " " | 7. 16. |
| October 1st | Sloop Speedwell | David Gage | Ditto | Ditto Do | 60. | " " " | 4. 10. |

| Date of Arrival | Vessels Name | Commanders Name | from where | where belonging | Tons | Amt. Duty on Cargo | Whole Amt. of Duties & Tonage |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| October 2nd | Sloop Dispatch | Andrew Carman | Ditto | Ditto Do | 40. | 20. 0. 4. | 23. 0. 4. |
| " " | Schooner Succy & Sophia | Henry Putnam | Ditto | Ditto Do | 37. | " " " | 2. 15. |
| " 4th | Sloop Union | John Mercier | Ditto | Ditto Do | 50. | " " " | 3. 15. |
| " 10th | Schooner Little David | James Rea | Ditto | Ditto Do | 40. | 14. 5. 7. | 17. 5. 7. |
| " " | Schooner Friendship | Job Gibs | Ditto | Built in Georgia | 25. | " " " | 1. 17. 6. |
| " " | Sloop Nancy | Marcus Conway | Ditto | American bottom | 15. | 25. 3. 5. | 26. 5. 11. |
| " 25th | Sloop Friendship | John Wallace | Ditto | British bottom | 90. | 6. 0. 0. | 12. 15. |
| " " | Schooner Charlotte | David Murry | Ditto | Ditto Ditto | 84. | " " " | 6. 6. |

151. 17. 7.

Certify'd for the
3rd day Octobr 1787

Michl Rudulph Collect.
for the Port of Sunbury

III.

1787 tax return for Sunbury District, Liberty County, Office of the Clerk of Superior Court, Hinesville, Georgia

| | | All Free persons of every age & condition | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | M16 | F16 | MO-16 | FO-16 | Ms1 | Fs1 |
| 1 Andrew Maybank | 481 acres inland swamp; 1410 acres pine; 1 four-wheeled carriage; 1 poll | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | |
| 2 Estate John Bohau Girardeau | 57 acres inland swamp; 506 acres pine; 45 slaves; 1 poll | | 1 | 2 | 3 | | |
| 3 William Woodward | 111 acres salt marsh; 100 acres oak & hickory; 12 slaves; 1 poll | 1 | - | | 1 | 7 | 5 |
| 4 Charles Barnet Goff | 15 slaves; 1 poll | 1 | - | | 1 | 10 | 5 |
| 5 Peter Donworth | 60 acres inland swamp; 318 acres oak & hickory; 24 slaves; 1 lot in Sunbury, £75; 1 carriage; 1 poll | 1 | - | | | 15 | 9 |
| 6 Japheth Cobb | 1 poll | 1 | - | | 1 | | |
| 7 James Cole | 1 lot in Sunbury, £105 | 1 | - | | | | |
| 8 Allice Cole | 1 lot in Sunbury, £105 | 1 | - | 2 | 1 | | |
| 9 Elisha Miller | 2 lots in Sunbury, £120 | 1 | - | | | | |
| 10 John Lawson senior | 50 acres inland swamp | 1 | - | 2 | | | |
| 11 Do Atty John Rogers nonresident | 2 lots in Sunbury, £150 | | - | | | | |
| 12 Do Atty Stephen Srewsbury nonresident | 2 lots in Sunbury, £20 | | | | | | |
| 13 Estate of Amelia Kelsall decd | 2 lots in Sunbury, £350; 8 slaves | | | | | 2 | 6 |
| 14 Estate of John Kell decd | | | | | | | |
| 15 Estate Thomas Morris decd | | | | | | | |
| 16 Peter Bishop | 1 poll | 1 | | | | | |
| 17 Schmidt & Molich | 1 slave; 2 polls; 1 carriage | 2 | | | | | 1 |
| 18 Josiah Powell | 200 acres tide swamp; 100 acres inland swamp; 39 slaves; 368 acres; 1 poll | 1 | 2 | | | | |
| 19 Estate Jane Low deceased | 122 acres oak & hickory; 168 acres pine; 10 slaves | | | | | 3 | 7 |
| 20 Elizabeth and Euphemia Darling | 7 slaves | | | | | 3 | 4 |
| 21 Adam Alexander | 2 lots in Sunbury, £150; 2 slaves; 1 poll | - | 2 | | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| 22 Davis Austin | 100 acres oak & hickory in Burke County; 1 Sunbury lot, £150; 2 slaves; 1 poll | - | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 |

| | | M16 | F16 | MO-16 | FO-16 | Ms1 | Fs1 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 23 Estate Robert C. Baillie, decd | 5 lots in Sunbury, £200; 12 slaves 1000 acres inland swamp; 1330 acres; 100 acres oak & hickory; 400 acres swamp & 550 acres oak & hickory in Camden County | - | | | | | |
| 24 John Irvine | 100 acres oak & hickory; 500 acres pine (both in Chatham County); 18 slaves; 1 carriage | 2 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 5 |
| 25 Levy Smith | 1 poll | 1 | 1 | | 2 | | |
| 26 James Wetson | 1 poll | 1 | | | | | |
| 27 Charles White | 1 poll | 1 | 1 | | | | |
| 28 John Graves | 500 acres inland swamp; 4 Sunbury lots, £190; 1 slave; 1 poll | 1 | | | | 1 | |
| 29 Ditto atty for [?] Fisher nonresident | 4 Sunbury lots, £350 | | | | | | |
| 30 John Lawson Junior | 500 acres tide swamp; 2 Sunbury lots, £150; 2 slaves; 1 poll | 1 | | 2 | 1 | | 2 |
| 31 Do Atty Jeremiah Dickenson | 350 acres oak & hickory; 1 Sunbury lot, £35 | | | | | | |
| 32 Henry Myers | 50 acres on Sea Island adjacent to shore; 1 poll | 1 | 1 | | 1 | | |
| 33 John Hardy Ditto | 5 Sunbury lots, £130; 17 slaves; 1 poll | 1 | 1 | | 1 | | |
| 34 Edward Price | 82 acres pine; 1 Sunbury lot, £70; 3 slaves; 1 poll | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | |
| 35 John Langford | 1 poll | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | |
| 36 Thomas Rudulph | 3 slaves; 1 poll | | | | | | |
| 37 Amos Elliott | 1 poll | 1 | 1 | | 2 | | |
| 38 Edward Talbot | 2000 acres oak & hickory, Glynn Co.; 1 poll | 1 | | | | | |
| 39 Michael Rudulph Ditto | 2000 acres oak & hickory, Glynn Co.; 5 slaves; 1 poll | 1 | 1 | | 2 | | |
| 40 Abraham Legett | 1 Sunbury lot, £100; 1 slave; 1 poll | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | | |
| 41 Mark Cole | 1 Sunbury lot, £100; 1 poll | 1 | | 1 | | | |
| 42 Stafford Somarsall | 2 Sunbury lots, £60; 2 slaves; 1 poll | 1 | | 1 | | | |
| 43 Nathaniel Saxton | 10 slaves; 1 poll | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | | |
| 44 Solomon Hunter | 250 acres pine; 2 slaves; 1 poll | 1 | 1 | | | 1 | 1 |
| 45 Thomas Maxwell | 23 slaves; 1 poll | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | | |

| | | M16 | F16 | MO-16 | FO-16 | Ms1 | Fs1 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 46 Jonathan Holden | 4 Sunbury lots, Ł180; 5 slaves; 1 poll | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | | |
| 47 Estate Doctr Lynn | 2 Sunbury lots, Ł25 | | | | | | |
| 48 Henry Putnam Ditto | 9 slaves; 1 poll | 1 | 1 | | 1 | | |
| 49 Peter Hoffmire | 1 Sunbury lot, Ł60; 1 poll | 1 | 1 | | 5 | | |
| 50 Gilbert Harrison | 1 Sunbury lot, Ł30; 2 slaves; 1 poll | 2 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 1 |
| 51 Charles Tushet | 1 poll | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | | |
| 52 Benjamin Putnam | 9 slaves; 1 poll | 1 | 1 | | 1 | | |
| 53 F. Coddington | 3 slaves; 1 poll | 1 | 2 | | 1 | | |
| 54 John Baker | 1200 acres inland swamp; 3 Sunbury lots, Ł750; 35 slaves; 1 poll | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 17 | 18 |
| 55 Ditto for John Armstead | 2 Sunbury lots, Ł100 | | | | | | |
| 56 Baker & Troup | | | | | | | |
| 57 Artimas Baker | 50 acres inland swamp; 5 slaves; 1 poll | | | | | | |
| 58 James Belcher | 50 acres inland swamp; 100 acres pine; 31 slaves; 1 poll | | | | | | |
| 59 Estate Archd Hastings | 10 slaves | | | | | | |
| 60 John Blackstock | 2 lots Newport landing; 3 slaves; 1 poll | 2 | 1 | 1 | | | 3 |
| 61 Stephens Filis | 1 poll | | | | | | |

Defaulters

Colo John Baker [struck out]
Alexander McIver [struck out]
John Blackstock [struck out]
William Peacock [struck out]
Artemas Baker Quere [?] [struck out]
David Corker
James Mathers
Thomas Elliott
Robert Iverson
Miller Howard
[illegible - struck out]
William Taylor
Burges Moore
Thomas Hurst

John Dunn
Richard Burges
Benjamin [Hoff]
Nathaniel Bacon [struck out]
Joseph Austin
James [Mace]
John Myers Senr
John Myers Junr
William Myers
Daniel Myers
John Niel
Benjamin Green
Thomas Mulpas [struck out]
John Miller

John Dollar Junr [struck out]
John Dollar Senr [struck out]
Thomas White
Thomas Murphy
John Pomroy
Wm Graves [struck out]
Peter Vandike [written over Donald Irvine]
William [Payne]
John Weeks
Jeremiah Smith
Isaac Wood
Jonathan Shaw
William Gamble [struck out]
George Forster [struck out]

[ ] = from newspaper

IV.

The following is an abstract of the names appearing in the 1806 Tax Digest for the residents of "Sunbury District," Liberty County Probate Court, Hinesville, Ga.:

Isaac Cuthbert
Jno Elliott
Jno Stevens
Thos. Nelme
Est. Stephen Dickinson
Francis Dickinson
Isebell Colhoun
John C. Fields
Edmund Adams
Geo. C. Somarsall
Geo. L. Mitym ker [?]
A. Maybank
Ebenr Baker
Sarah P. Maxwell
Thos A. Peacock
James White
Thos B. Baker
Wm L. Baker
Geo. Hughes
Jno Webb
Jno Somarsall
S.S. Wing
A. Alexander
Hannah Peacock
Jno W. Nelme
E.C. Hastings
Jacob H. Dunham
Matilda Baker
Wm McWhir
Jno Bunkley
Jonathn B. Bacon
C.D. Schmidt
Est. S.P. Bailey
James Morris
Wm C. Lawson
Ann Cubbage
Richd B. Law
Stafford Somarsall
James Holmes
M. Alexander
David Swanson
Robert Armsted
Elizth Russ [Ross?]
Est. McIntosh
John Kell
Est. Jno Hurt
Est. Jno Baker (CI)
James Tilbin Baker
Mydert Van Yevern
Jno A. Baker
Jno Soulligree
H.P. Delegall
Alfred Cuthbert
Eliza Lawson
Thos. Bacon

V.

Following is "a catalogue of the Scholars of the Sunbury Academy, July 30th 1807" [located in the uncataloged papers of the Charles C. Jones, Jr., Collection, Duke University Manuscript Department, Durham, N.C.]:

Abigail Ja---[illegible]
Adam Somarsall
Alexr McIntosh
Alexr McIver
Amos Axson
Ann Maxwell
Ann Myres
Ann Peacock
Artemus Baker
Audley Maxwell
Caroline Fabian
Edward Fochman
Elizabeth McCall
Elizabeth Jones
Elizabeth Peacock
George Forrester
Hannah Maxwell
Hester Elliott
Hester McIntosh
Harriet Croft
James Baker
James Bowen
James Bullock
James McCall
James McIntosh Senr
James McIntosh Junr
John Baker
John Bullock
John Caldwell
John Glass
John Jones
John Law
John Maxwell
John McIntosh
John Pomeroy
Lachn Cuthbert
Louisa Croft
Louis Latouche
Lucretia Cook
Marie Baillie
Marjery Baillie
Mary Axson
Mary Law
Mary McIntosh
Mary Osgood
Matilda Elliot
Peter Goulding
Preserved Alger
Richd Cuyler
Richd Pomeroy
Saml Lines
Sarah Maxwell
Sarah Wood
Susan Myres
Thos Baillie
Thos Baker
Thos McCall
Thos Winn
Wm Baker
Wm Cooper
Wm Cuyler
Wm Grimball
Wm Hughs
Wm James
Wm Jasper
Wm Law
Wm McIntosh

VI.

The following is an abstract of the names appearing in the 1807 Tax Digest for the residents of "Sunbury District," Liberty County Probate Court, Hinesville, Ga.:

Isaac Cuthbert
Alfred Cuthbert
H.P. Delegall
Jno Lawson
Est. Jno Lawson Sen.
Jno Soulligree
Jno A. Baker
Myndist Van Yevern
Ann Cubbage
Richd B. Law
Stafford Somarsall
James Holmes
Mr. Alexander
David Swarson
Robert Armsted
Elizath Ross
Est. L. McIntosh
Jno Kell
Est. Jno Hurt
Est. Jno Baker (CI)
James Tilbin Baker
Orin Dudley
William C. Lawson
Est. S.P. Bailey
James Morris
C.D. Scmidt
Jonath B. Bacon
Jno Bunkley
Matilda Baker
W. McWhir
Mary McIntosh
Jacob H. Dunham
James White
Wm. L. Baker
George Hughes
Jno Webb
Jno Somarsall
S.S. Wing
A. Alexander
Jno Wilkins
Thos. A. Peacock
Geo. C. Somarsall
Hannah Peacock
Jno Elliott
Jno Stevens
Geo. L. Mill ken [?]
Edmund Adams
A. Maybanks
Jno C. Field
A.M. Baker
Ebenr Baker
Sarah P. Maxwell
Thos. B. Baker
E. & C. Hastings
Jno W. Nelme
Elizth Lawson
Thos. Nelms
Est. Stephen Dickinson
Francis Dickinson
Issebel Colhaun [?]
Thos. Bacon

VII.

Following is an abstract of the names appearing in the 1808 Tax Digest for the residents of "Sunbury District," Liberty County Probate Court, Hinesville, Ga. [The 1809 Tax Digest is identical for the same district, including the list of defaulters.]

Adam Alexander
Edmond Adams
Mary Adams
Thos. Bacon Cols Isld
Jonathan B. Bacon
Est. Samuel Bacon
A.M. Baker, minor
Est. John F. Baker
James F. Baker, minor
John A. Baker, minor
Thomas B. Baker, minor
Matilda A. Baker
Est. J.P. Bayley
John Bunkley
Spencer Christopher
Isebell Colhoun
Alfred & John A. Cuthbert
Ann Cubbedge
Est. Stephen Dickinson
Francis Dickinson
Kinchen Dudley
Jacob H. Dunham
Est. Nathan Dyer
John Elliott
Est. Jonathan Fabian
Jedidiah Field
Heirs of John Girardeau Senr
Demsey Griffin
West Harris
Cathrine Hastings
James Holmes
William Isaac
R.B. Law
John Lawson
Est. John Lawson Senr
William C. Lawson
Elizabeth Lawson
Sarah P. Maxwell
Andrew Maybank
Jesse McCall
William McWhir
Mary McIntosh & children
James Q. Morris
John U. Nelme
Thomas Nelme
Hannah Peacock
Christian D. Schmidt
Miles Smith
Francis Saltus
Stafford Somarsall
John Somarsall
John Suligree
Adam Tunno
Est. Mindert Van Yeveren
Joseph Ward
William Ward
James Ward
John Webb
Samuel Wing
John Wilkins
Paul H. Wilkins

Defaulters:

Est. Ebenezer Baker
John Broughton
Ann Bulloch
Mrs. Christie
Orin Dudley
Joab Farris
Sarah Howley
Alexander Irvine
John Irvine
Kenith Irvine
Owen Jones--St. Catherines
Rebecca Johnson
John H.B. Maxwell
John Molich
Owen Owen--St. Catherines
David Rees
Thomas Rolls
Est. Walburger--St. Catherines
John Wilson
Hampden Wilkins

VIII.

Following is an abstract of Sunbury lot owners in the 1812-1813 Tax Digest for Liberty County, Hinesville, Georgia. [The lot owner's name is followed by the name of the person returning the tax (usually the same as the lot owner). Next, the value of the lot is shown, and finally, any changes of lot value or ownership listed in the 1814-1815 Tax Digest for Liberty County are given.]

Est. Thomas Bacon, Sen, returned by Thomas Bacon, Jr.; lot in Sunbury, $20 (same for 1814-15)

Joseph Jones, by Joseph Jones: lots in Sunbury, $175 (1814-15, $200)

Minor heirs of John Jones, by Joseph Jones: lots in Sunbury, $300 (same for 1814-15)

Henry Wood, by William Fraser; 1 lot in Sunbury, $30 (same for 1814-15)

Richard S. Baker, by Richard S. Baker: 1 lot in Sunbury, $50 (1814-1815, $25)

Est. John Croft, by John Stacy, adm: House & lots in Sunbury, $1000 (same for 1814-15)

Est. James Dunwoody, by James Dunwoody; lots &c in Sunbury, $700 (not listed in 1814-15)

Audley Maxwell, by Audley Maxwell: 2 lots in Sunbury, $600 (not listed in 1814-15)

Damman Peacock, by Richard S. Baker: 3 lots in Sunbury, $120 (1814-1815, 1 lot in Sunbury, $30)

John Stevens, by John Stevens: lots &c in Sunbury, $1500 (same for 1814-15)

Peter Winn, by Peter Winn; 1 lot in Sunbury, $50 (1814-15, $100)

Est. Adam Alexander, by Louisa F. Alexander: Houses & lots in Sunbury, $1110 (1814-15, $1130)

Est. John F. Baker, by Lee Blackwell: 1 lot in Sunbury, $20 (1814-1815, 0)

Thomas B. Baker, minor, by Lee Blacksell; lot in Sunbury, $10 (1814-1815, $5)

John Boggs, by John Boggs; House & lot in Sunbury, $1000 -- add for 1813 (not listed in 1814-15)

Davis Carter, by Davis Carter; Houses & lots in Sunbury, $400 (1814-1815, $300)

Ann Cubbedge, by Ann Cubbedge; House & lots in Sunbury, $400 (1814-15, $300)

Alfred and John A. Cuthbert, by John A. Cuthbert; House & lots in Sunbury, $1050 (not listed in 1814-15)

James Dunwoody, by James Dunwoody; 1 lot in Sunbury, $100 (not listed in 1814-15)

John Elliott, by John Elliott; lots in Sunbury & Brunswick, $230 (1814-15, 1 lot in Sunbury, $150)

Jedediah Field, by Jedediah Field; House & lots in Sunbury, $800 -- deduct for 1813 (1814-15, Houses & lot in Sunbury, $900)

James Holmes, by James Holmes; Houses & lots in Sunbury, $1000 (same for 1814-15)

Mary Hunt by James Holmes; Lot &c in Sunbury, $400 (not listed in 1814-15)

Samuel S. Law, by Samuel S. Law; House & lot in Sunbury, $1000 (same for 1814-15)

William C. Lawson, by William C. Lawson; Lots in Sunbury, $125 (1814-1815, Est. Wm. C. Lawson, by John Somarsall; 2 lots in Sunbury, $120)

Jan Molich, by Jan Molich; House & lots in Sunbury, $1012 (1814-15, $1008)

Est. Thomas Nelme, by James Holmes; Improved lot in Sunbury, $400 (1814-15, $400)

David & Elizabeth Rees, by David Rees; House & lots in Sunbury, $500 (1814-15, Elizabeth Rees by John Kell, atty, $800)

Andrew Rodes, by Andrew Rodes; lots in Sunbury, $268 (1814-15, 3 lots in Sunbury, $400)

Est. Christian D. Schmidt, by D. Van Yeveren; lots &c in Sunbury; $540 (1814-15, $530)

Charles O. Screven, by Charles O. Screven; House & lots in Sunbury, $1800 (not listed in 1814-15)

James Smith, by James Smith; House & lots in Sunbury, $1014 (1814-

1815, 8 lots, $1014)

John Somarsall, by John Somarsall; House & lots in Sunbury, $115 (not listed in 1814-15)

William Ward, by William Ward; House & lots in Sunbury, $1000 (not (not listed in 1814-15)

John Webb, by John Webb; House & lots in Sunbury, $400 (1814-15, House & 5 lots, $250)

Paul H. Wilkins, by Paul H. Wilkins; Lots &c in Sunbury, $1000 (1814-15, house & lots in Sunbury, $1000)

John U. Wilkins, by John U. Wilkins; lots in Sunbury, $100 (not listed in 1814-15)

Samuel Wilkins, by Samuel Wilkins, $1200 (1814-15, 2 lots in Sunbury, $1500)

Liberty County 1814-15 Tax Digest for Sunbury lot owners not listed in the 1812-13 Tax Digest:

Christopher Spencer, by Christopher Spencer; House & lots in Sunbury, $250

Francis Dickinson, by James Smith; 2 lots in Sunbury, $10

John Dunwoody, by John Dunwoody; House & lot in Sunbury, $600

Est. John Hunt, by James Holmes, agt; House & lot in Sunbury, $400

Est. John Jones, by Joseph Jones, adm.; Lots in Sunbury, $125

John Lines, by John Lines; 5 lots in Sunbury, $100

Thomas S. Mell, by Thomas S. Mell; 2 lots in Sunbury, $20

Francis Saltus, by John Webb, agt.; 1 lot in Sunbury, $50

Stafford A. Somarsall, by Stafford A. Somarsall; 4 lots in Sunbury, $60

George C. Somarsall, by George C. Somarsall; House & lot in Sunbury, $50

Mrs. [?] D. Van Yeveren, by D. Van Yeveren; Lots in Sunbury, $1000

# APPENDIX D

This appendix contains a series of extracts from letters of the Alexander family of Sunbury, as well as a few letters concerning the Reverend William McWhir and his wife. Dr. Adam Alexander was a prominent Sunbury physician from the late 17th Century until his death in 1812. He was married in 1802 to Louisa Frederika Schmidt, the daughter of Egydius Heinrich Schmidt of Sunbury and a sister of Dorothea Christina Schmidt Van Yevern. In Sunbury in 1803, Adam and Louisa became the parents of Adam Leopold Alexander [The Alexander Letters, 1787-1900 (Savannah: privately printed for George T. Baldwin, 1910), p. 375], who attended the Sunbury Academy under the Rev. McWhir's tutelage and after his "graduation" entered Yale College in New Haven, Conn. Most of the quoted letters were written either to Adam while in Connecticut or to his mother, who also resided there during part of her life. In 1823, shortly after returning from college, Adam married Sarah Hillhouse Gilbert of Washington, Ga., and the young couple chose that town as their home. Adam did, however, make periodic visits to see his mother and aunt in Sunbury in the years before their removal to Savannah [The Alexander Letters, 1787-1900, pp. 376-77].

I.

Letter to Mr. Adam Alexander, New Haven, Connecticut, from Mr. Samuel F. Law [Adam L. Alexander Papers, Manuscript Department, Duke University Library, Durham, North Carolina]:

Sunbury 10th August 1818

My Young friend,

Your much esteemed favor informing me of your agreeable progress, and safe arrival has been duly received, and by that you will excuse the delay of answer, which has been very much owing to the sameness of every thing here with that State in which you left us; Perhaps there is nothing with us at this time, that excites more feeling, than the state of the weather, the drouth prevailed with great violence until towards the middle of July, at which time the early corn was generally lost; our crops since especially cotton, have improved very much, but we begin again to be very dry, this with intence heat, surpasing perhaps any thing I have ever experienced, present an alarming aspect.

Our little Village is healthy, as is also the country. I believe there has been no death of any person with whom you are acquainted, but that of Doctr Cock, an event from his manner of life to have been expected.

I was happy to learn that your improvement in Sunbury, was so respectable as to entitle you to a place in the freshman Class, . . .

Please accept my sincere regard and fervent wishes for your best Interest here and hereafter

Saml F. Law

II.

Letter to Captain William Jones, Augusta, Georgia, from the Rev. William McWhir [File 448, Folder 5, Georgia Historical Society, Savannah, Georgia]:

Sunbury Novr 24th 1818

Dear Sir,

The kindness and attention which Mrs McWhir & myself recd from you & your amiable partner was such as cannot be forgotten. The only return which we have in our power to make is, in our prayers to the Author of our being, that he would be pleased to bless you with his Choicest favours, & continue to sanctify even your afflications, as I firmly believe, he has in great mercy done, in the last heavy corrective dispensation of his providence. I doubt not, but both of you will be enabled to see the hand of a Merciful God in all his dealings with you, & be enabled also from your own comfortable experience to say with holy David, 'It is good for me that I have been afflicted, because afterwards I learnt to keep my comts.'

After a very pleasant journey by Waynesboro' & Sava, we got home on the 3d of this month, where blessed be God we found all well. Not one person had been sick nor had any thing unfavourable taken place in my affairs during my absence for four months. True, my crop both of Cotton & provisions is very short; but this was a dispensation of Providence, which could not have been affected by my presence.

On my return, I was met with a hearty welcome by my friends & neighbours, and what was most flattering was, that during my absence, the Ladies of Midway purchased for me a Membership in the American Bible Society, for life, with which they presented me immediately on my return.

Religion seems to be in a prosperous state with us. On Sunday last I was called to admr the Lords Supper in a neighbouring congregation where we had from 4 to 500 communicants, and twelve new members were added, of whom I baptized ten on Saturday . . .

Mrs. McWhir most heartily unites with me in our very best wishes and hearty thanks to yourself & our kind & affectionate friend Mrs. Jones . . . Please write me & believe me to be your obliged friend & very Hble Servt.

Wm McWhir

III.

Letter to Adam Alexander, New Haven Connecticut, from James Holmes [Adam L. Alexander Papers, Manuscript Department, Duke University Library, Durham, North Carolina]:

Sunbury, 29 Nov. 1818

Dear Adam,

By Mr Dunwody's arrival I received your letter. But I have not seen him yet, it was brought to me by Adam who was at Medway when he arrived . . . I am preparing for the examination upon Virgil & the Select . . . of Cicero upon which I am prepared . . . .

I wish when you write again you would mention the studies of the sophamore Class, as I shant come on until next June 12 months; I hope to be prepared for that class by that time. If you think not I wish you would say so.

But I do not wish to enter the Freshman you give so bad a description of their fare. Miss Tempy & Uncle Samuel Law are to be married next Tuesday night, & one or two more, But I shall not Mention them yet. The old major looks quite Buckish. He cant do without a wife. Old Molich was taken with a fit this morning & is now very ill. It is thought he will soon bid fare well to us & sent out; unfurl his Sails, a fair Breese for ____! Excuse the Shortness of my letter as I must make hastle to enter this letter. But take this & believe me your friend

James Holmes

IV.

Letter from Mary C. Wilkins, Sunbury, to Louisa Alexander, New Haven, Connecticut [Alexander-Hillhouse Papers, Southern Historical Collection, University of North Carolina Library, Chapel Hill, North Carolina]:

1st April 1819

Dear Mrs. Alexander

I feel anxious to hear from you & am told that you have met with some difficulties in house keeping which has induced you to board out again. I'm sorry you have met with difficulties but they will attend us in every situation, to remind us this is not our resting place. Mr. Law told us some time ago he would write you of a disagreeable occurance respecting Sandy he way laid Mrs. Christopher and her daughter as they were going home from their shop one night and took from them money and other articles, next day it was proved on him when he accused one of Mr Paul Wilkins negroes as an accomplice. Mr Ward wanted Mr Wilkins to give up his negro to be punished, but Paul told him he could not suffer his negro to be punished without proof upon the word of one who had told so many stories respecting the matter and who was certainly a bad character, to prosecute both negroes and let the guilty be punished and to go immediately & search his fellow. Mr. Ward got in a passion and abused Mr. Wilkins and called him a worthless cripple. Mr. S. Law came to Mr. S. Wilkins and told him he was afraid if the negro was prosecuted he would be hung, but he cannot for the first offence. The prosecution is dropd or rather never commenced an my husband thinks you had better sell Sandy for fear of his committing some crime that will condemn him. Mr. John Maxwell payed Mr. Wilkins a few days ago for your Chaise. He will deliver the money to Mr. Bulloch the first time he goes to Savannah. I have paid Mr. John Dunwoody 30 Dols on account of Mrs. Van Yeveren for Ann's pin. I wished to pay Interest but he said your sister would not like it and it would give me pain to displease her. Old Kate & Becky tell me they have not heard from you for some time & Fanny brought her baby to see me it is a fine child. They beg you to return they long to see you. Becky comes frequently to inquire if I have received letters. Ann and James went to Savannah 2 days ago Ann came home to Elizas wedding. She is married to Mr. Iverson and set off for Bourk ' believe it is, preparing for the wedding prevented my writing you sooner. Iverson is a plan man but I think him good tempered and a good understanding. There has been a great commotion in Sunbury. Mr. Lee engaged Mr. Hughes as an assistant, about 2 months after he thought Mrs. Lee and himself could attend the school themselves as Mr. Hughes did not appear satisfied and he told Mr. Hughes if he could get a place they would part with him. Mr. H readily agreed

and quit the school, which offended a great many. Mr. Holmes immediately gave Hughs a school room in Mrs. Rees house sent his children to him & in a little time he had 15 schollars. People in general blame Mr. Lee but we seldom go with the croud. I think he was very attentive to the school and when he did his duty as a teacher I had no right to find fault. I believe he offended the baptists finding People were dissatisfied as soon as the quarter was up he discharged the school and is going back to the north. Hughes father was ill and sent for him to the up Country & we now have holliday again untill the 1st May when Mr. John Winn takes the Academy. I wish I was not so foolish about my Children and could content myself to part with James. I dont know when he will be fit for College at this rate. Mr Lee had put him in the Greek and I flattered myself would have fit him for College. Adam & James Holmes are both to go this spring, and very distressing circumstance has happened in McIntosh County there has been a long dispute between Hopkins & McQueen McIntosh which ended in Hopkins shooting & killing McQ McIntosh & Hopkins has his arm broke. Old General Stevens had purchased Mr Cuthberts place and thinks of bringing his family back next fall. It gives me pleasure to hear that Adam & Louisa are doing well. Long may they be a comfort to you. This is a bad year with us we made a good crop at Rice hope, and very little at Limerick and part of that little is gone. We had a large new corn house burnt last week with from 6 to 8 hundred bushels of Corn 4 Hundd bought in Savannah & just sent up with all the crop of Pease & the loft filled with blades; the horses will miss them I feel it, but it dont distress me there was no lives lost and I can bear such losses while my family are well and safe. I know very little of Sunbury. I don't know the day I've been out except to church. Mrs. Holmes was well as ever Mrs. McIntosh appears brave, Mrs. McWhir is well. She has lost Betsy who has gone up the country to Mr. Cuthbert since the new law respecting free negroes. Mrs. West I believe is well I'm told she is rather low in spirits since Mrs. Bartow married Mr. Dunham--the family think the connection was too near. Ann says she will write soon to Mrs. Van Yeveren the last I received from you was dated 26 Decbr. I have just heard Mrs. Archy Wilkins is in very bad health. I have sent a half Barrel with Ground nuts and 50 sweet oranges to Mr. Bullock to forward to you and to remind you of Georgia. Mr. Wilkins who is all I have at home begs to be rememberd to your family including your sister, remember me to Mrs. Powell & Dunwoody & all Georgia friends tell Hetty D---y [illegible] her Pa shew her letter to me I think it very pretty cant Louisa try & send me a few lines it will give me pleasure it is well the paper gives out that you may [be relieved]. My love to your sister & your family.

Yours,

[Ma]ry C. Wilkins

V.

Letter to Adam Alexander, New Haven, Connecticut, from Samuel S. Law [Adam L. Alexander Papers, Manuscript Department, Duke University Library, Durham, North Carolina]:

Sunbury 5th May 1821

My dear Young friend,

Your affectionate and interesting letter of the 14th March is now before me, to which I would have replyed more promptly, but having previously written to your mother, concluded to wait for her answer (which I have received) and communicate through you if necessary.

I am truly happy to find that the friendships, and endearments, formed in your childhood, for the people and place of your nativity, has not been obliterated by time and distance, or the powerful facinations thrown around you, by the superior combination of art and nature. In all those advantages which tend to elivate in the scale in intellectual, and moral excellence, nor yet from the consideration of that healthful and invigoratin residence, which a Northern clime impart to the mental powers, whilst that of the South, seem to multiply the calamities of human life, by the sickly and pestilential breath she diffuses over her inhabitants.

Under all these circumstances, I find you are still looking forward with anxious expectation to the time when you will embark for Sunbury, where you will no doubt realise those feelings, so affectionately expressed on the death of my dear Edward . . . .

I am sorry that it is not in my power to answer your inquiry favourably in behalf of your worthy young friend Mr. Smith, the commissioners having applyed to Mr. McWhir, who they expect will bring out a Gentleman next fall from Ireland as principal of the Sunbury Acadmy. We have had a very backward Spring, March was by far the coldest month we had the past season, our Spring is now beginning to be very fine. I have nothing of a local nature worth relating, our little Village is quite healthy, Col Harding who married Matilda Baker died yesterday in Bryan Co. You will please remember me affectionately to my nephew and tell him that his father and family are well. You may also say the same for me to Joseph Maxwell, whose father & Mother I see almost every Sabbath. Mrs. Law and family joins me in affectionate remembrance to your self Mother Aunt and Sister.

Which concludes me your sincere friend,

Saml S. Law

VI.

Letter to Adam Alexander, Sunbury, Georgia, from M. Greene [Adam L. Alexander Papers, Manuscript Department, Duke University Library, Durham, North Carolina]:

Savannah 5th June 1822

My Dear Adam

We reached town on the afternoon of the day we left you, and found all our friends here well, . . .

I find a very great difference between the atmosphere of Savannah & Sunbury; today it has been So warm as really to incapacitate us from attending to our concerns. Oh how I wish, for a little of your Sea breeze, it would it seems to me have as powerful an effect as to enhale the Nitrous occide. Your little village will be often brought to mind, and when, far distant from it, with other objects and Scenes before me, its verdant green, the beautiful rivers prospect, the kindness & hospitality of its inhabitants & above all the bright & captivating eyes of its young ladies, will pass over my memory with no ordinary interest, and no doubt when engrossed in business or labouring over Coke & Blackstone, the pleasure of my Sunbury jaunt, will pass thru my mind & relieve the irksomeness of my task . . . .

Will you say to your Mother for me, that her Kindness and attention to us while in Sunbury will be long, and gratefully remembered, but that she would add greatly to her favour if she would with you visit us this summer, but of that I am almost hopeless . . . .

Believe me to be Dr Adam Yr Sincere friend,

M. Greene

VIII.

Letter from J.A. Maxwell to Adam L. Alexander, Washington, Georgia [Adam L. Alexander Papers, Manuscript Department, Duke University Library, Durham, North Carolina]:

Social Bluff, July 12th 1822.

Dear Alexander,

. . . The 4th inst. of course I spent in Sunbury, and a merry day it was even there. Doctor Footman gave us quite a spirited oration, & what was unusual on such occasion he stated a new idea or two. By the by, I had nearly forgotten to say that in consequent of your departure I felt so bad, that I blew myself into a slight fever the day after; however time conquers love in some measure, & I believe I shall now exist even without you, tho I must confess I fear but indiferantly.

I do not visit Sunbury Often but when I do I always call at your Mother & undergo a talking in the which we generally make very honourable mention of you in some way or other.

I received a miserable long letter from Turner a day or two since, the fellow is as mad as a 'march Hare' & I believe nothing short of having his head shaved with a pitch plaster upon it will cool his affection for the Girls. The fellow talks of Angels & 'bewitching creatures' as if the former were to be seen by dozens in Liberty. It shocks even me, when I see a great broad shouldered, two fisted Scotch man, turning up the whites of his eyes, sighing & talking about Love--particularly when I know nothing short of a fixed bayonet could penetrate his heart . . . .

I am not certain but that I shall get the start of you yet, notwithstanding you are engaged, but as I have not quite obtained my own consent I shall only give you the above as a hint for you to expedite your affairs.

I hope you found the Lassee well &c &c &c &c

I am Dear A. your friend ever

J.A. Maxwell

VIII.

Letter from Sarah Hillhouse Alexander to Adam L. Alexander, Sunbury [The Alexander Papers, 1787-1900 (Savannah: privately printed for George T. Baldwin, 1910), pp. 55-57].

Washington, Jany. 25, 1824.

If the weather is in Sunbury as it is here today, I expect my dear husband is quietly seated by the fire in comfortable confab with mother and aunt instead of bending his course Midway-ward (if I may make a word for my own accommodation). I like to fancy you to myself enjoying yourself at your old home, and mother and aunt as much pleased as yourself, and should like to join the party as I flatter myself my company would be some addition in your eyes, so effectually has the little god blinded them. While you have been enjoying yourself in Sunbury as I suppose, your poor rib has had a deserpate fit of the hysterics. Grandmamma was here Friday, and as I was sitting after dinner sewing and talking as usual, a thought came suddenly across my mind, and my eyes filled up before I could finish my sentence. I went to the window but it would not do. I ran out to the kitchen and gave Fielding and Melinda a terrible scold--but even that would not answer. I came back and sat down to play 'Away with Melancholy' but scarcely had touched the first note when I bellowed out to grandmamma's infinite astonishment, who had just come in the drawing room to hear the tune and a most melodius one it was. 'Well child,' she said, after waiting in vain for the storm to subside, 'you might as well take it out at once and get it over.' So I marched upstairs and stayed until the foundation was completely emptied, washed my face, which always looks uncommonly rosy and pretty after a good cry (you must know I took a peep as I passed the glass) and came down to see grandma off. The fit lasted the whole of the evening, but the patient was better next morning and has continued so ever since . . . .

I hope this is our last separation for some time at least, my dear husband, for I feel already as if it had been a very long one. I think I shall overwhelm you with a torrent of words when you come back, for notwithstanding my long letter I have a mighty budget of talk accumulated now for you which will doubtless enlarge daily. Do you not wonder when you open my letters what wonderful event can occasion such long ones?

Ever your own,

Sarah A.

APPENDIX E

I.

The following is a transcription of an original Sunbury lot deed: a conveyance from three of the Sunbury trustees, Kenneth Baillie, John Elliott, and James Fisher, to Thomas Peacock, October 1, 1759. [Original deposited in the Alexander-Hillhouse Papers, Southern Historical Collection, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, N.C.]

THIS INDENTURE Witnesseth that whereas Mark Carr in the Province of Georgia Esqr did by a certain Deed of Lease and Release executed by him and dated the nineteenth Day of June in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and fifty eight convey unto James Maxwell Kenneth Baillie John Elliott Grey Elliott and John Stevens and their successors in Trust a certain Tract or Parcel of Land containing about three hundred Acres situate on the River of Midway to be a Township known by the Name of the Town of Sunbury, as by the said Deed will more at large appear Recourse being thereunto had We Kenneth Baillie John Elliott and James Fisher, three of the Trustees appointed in the said Conveyance, by Virtue of the Power and Trust vested and reposed in us thereby, and for an in consideration of the Sum of six pounds Sterling which by a Receipt of the said Mark Carr appears to have been paid him by Thomas Peacock, wherewith we acknowledge ourselves satisfied, and also upon Condition that the said Thomas Peacock his Heirs Executors Administrators or Assigns shall and do comply with submit and be Subject to the several Regulations Conditions Penalties and Forfeitures specified in the above mentioned Deed of Conveyance Do hereby convey unto the said Thomas Peacock his Heirs Administrators and Assigns forever, all that Parcel or Lot of Land lying and being in the said Town of Sunbury and known by the Number twenty as in the Plan of the said Town will appear containing seventy Feet in Front, and one hundred and thirty feet in Depth In Witness whereof We have hereunto set our Hands and Seals this first Day of October in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and fifty nine.

Kenneth Baillie (L.S.)

John Elliott (L.S.)

James Fisher (L.S.)

II.

Following is a listing of the partial chain of titles of the Sunbury town lots. References and abbreviations used are:

Col = Georgia Colonial Deed Book
Gaz = Georgia Gazette
Jones = Charles C. Jones, Jr., Dead Towns of Georgia, containing the early list of Sunbury lot owners
LC = Loyalist Claim
Lib = Liberty County Deed Book
Sales = Georgia Sales of Confiscated Estates
Wills = Georgia Colonial Wills

Lot 1: Originally deeded to Mark Carr [Jones]
Sold by Carr and Sunbury Trustees to Patrick MacKay, April 5, 1767 [Lib B, pp. 534-41]
Sold by Comm. of Conf. Estates to David Rees, January 2, 1784, late property of Donald Fraser (Col BBB, pp. 384-86]
Sold by Henry Myers to John Gardiner, February 24, 1794 [Lib C, pp. 168-69]

Lot 2: Originally deeded to Arthus Carnaby [Jones]
Sold by Comm. of Conf. Estates to Samuel West, June 19, 1782 [Sales]
Sold by Henry Myers to John Gardiner, February 24, 1794 [Lib C, pp. 168-69]
Sold by Liberty Co. Tax Collector to Capt. George Haist, July 14, 1794 [Lib C, pp. 210-11]

Lot 3: Originally deeded to Grey Elliott [Jones]
Sold by Alexander McIver to Jeremiah Dickinson, April 21, 1791 [Lib B, pp. 366-67]
Sold by Henry Myers to John Gardiner, February 24, 1794 [Lib C, pp. 168-69]

Lot 4: Originally deeded to Grey Elliott [Jones]
Sold by Alexander McIver to Jeremiah Dickinson, April 21, 1791 [Lib B, pp. 366-67]
One-third of lot sold by Federal Marshall to Edward Griffith, March 10, 1797 [Lib CC, pp. 111-12]

Lot 5: Originally deeded to Francis Arthur [Jones]
Sold by Grey Elliott to Thomas Jones, April 29, 1773, bought by Elliott at public auction [Col X-2, pp. 888-90]
Owned by Elizabeth Munro, February 9, 1807, occupied by John Stevens [Lib F, pp. 158-60]

Lot 6: Originally deeded to William Graves [Jones]
Sold by John Stewart and wife Susannah, Sarah Way, and Mary

Lot 6: (cont.) Hughes, to John Elliott, July 21, 1800 [Lib E, pp. 201-2]
Sold by John Elliott to James Robarts, May 8, 1801 [Lib E, pp. 8-9]

Lot 7: Originally deeded to Francis Arthur [Jones]

Lot 8: Originally deeded to John Cubbidge [Jones]

Lot 9: Originally deeded to James Maxwell, August 8, 1766 [LC, Roger Kelsall]
Sold by James Maxwell to John Gilbert, November 16, 1767 [LC, Roger Kelsall]
Sold by John Gilbert and wife Bethel to James Edmonds, November 26, 1767 [LC, Roger Kelsall]
Sold by James Edmonds and wife Sarah to Roger Kelsall, December 31, 1769 [Col Bond R, pp. 317-19]
Sold by Comm. of Conf. Estates to Richard Hawley [LC, Roger Kelsall]

Lot 10: Sold by James Heart to Samuel Spry, November 3, 1761 [Col C-2, pp. 628-31]
Inherited by Samuel's son Royal Spry [Lib A (II), pp. 125-26]
Sold by John Baker and wife Mary to David Duncan, June 30, 1786 [Lib A (II), pp. 125-26]
Sold by David Duncan and wife Martha to James Merrilies, August 28, 1786 [Lib A (II), pp. 125-26]
Sold by James Merrilies to George Haist, March 29, 1792 [Lib B, pp. 468-69]
Sold by George Haist and wife Harriett to Elizabeth Munro, April 28, 1798 [Lib DD, pp. 261-63]

Lot 11: Originally deeded to William Wright [Lib A (II), pp. 127-28]
Sold by William Wright to John Bennysworth [Lib A (II), pp. 127-28.
Sold by Bennysworth to Thomas Young [Lib A (II), pp. 127-28
Confiscated as the property of Thomas Young [Lib A (II), pp. 127-28
Sold by Comm. of Conf. Estates to Philip Low, June 19, 1782 [Sales]
Sold by Philip Low to James Powell [Lib A (II), pp. 127-28]
Sold by James Powell to Ferdinand O'Neal [Lib A (II), pp. 127-28
Sold by Ferdinand O'Neal to Michael Rudulph, February 1, 1786 [Lib B, p. 104]
Sold by Michael Rudulph to David Duncan [Lib B, pp. 466-67]
Sold by David Duncan and wife Martha to James Merrilies, August 28, 1786 [Lib A (II), pp. 127-28]
Sold by Merrilies to George Haist, March 29, 1792 [Lib B, pp. 466-67]
Sold by Haist and wife Harriett to Elizabeth Munro, April 28, 1798 [Lib DD, pp. 261-63]
Sold by Charles William Rogers to Charles O. Screven, March 1, 1809 [Lib F, pp. 229-30]

Lot 12: Originally deeded to Stephens Dickinson [Jones]
Sold by widow of Dickinson, Jane Mahan, to David Duncan, July,

Lot 12: 1783 [Lib A (II), pp. 129-30]
(cont.) Sold by Duncan and wife Martha to James Merrilies, August 28, 1786 [Lib A (II), pp. 129-30]
Sold by James Merrilies to George Haist, March 29, 1792 [Lib B, pp. 465-66]
Sold by George Haist and wife Harriett to Elizabeth Munro, April 28, 1798 [Lib DD, pp. 261-63]
Sold by Charles William Rogers to Charles O. Screven, March 1, 1809 [Lib F, pp. 229-30]

Lot 13: Originally deeded to William Maxwell, April 24, 1759 [Col U, pp. 149-50]
Sold by Maxwell to James Fisher and Edward Jones, September 21, 1763 [Col U, p. 150]
Sold by Comm. of Conf. Estates to Benjamin Andrew, June 19, 1782 [Sales]
Sold by James Fisher to Egidius Henry Schmidt and John Molich, November 3, 1787 [Lib B, pp. 60-62]
Sold by Jan Molich, surviving partner of Schmidt and Molich, to Christian Leopold Schmidt, September 10, 1797 [Lib DD, pp. 205-08]

Lot 14: Originally deeded to James Fisher and Edward Jones, February 2, 1761 [Col U, pp. 150-51]
Sold by Comm. of Conf. Estates to Benjamin Andrew, June 19, 1782 [Sales]
Sold by James Fisher to Egidius Henry Schmidt and John Molich, November 3, 1787 [Lib B, pp. 60-62]
Sold by Jan Molich, surviving partner of Schmidt and Molich, to Christian Leopold Schmidt, September 10, 1797 [Lib DD, pp. 205-08]

Lot 15: Originally deeded to Swinton and Co. [Jones]
To be sold at public auction by the Georgia Provost Marshal [Gaz, April 6, 1774, p. 2/1]

Lot 16: Originally deeded to John Forbes, William Swinton, and Charles Ogilvie to Kelsall, Darling, and Munro [Col CC, pp. 138-40]
Sold by Forbes, Swinton, and Ogilvie to Kelsall, Darling, and Munro [Col CC, pp. 138-40]
Sold by Roger Kelsall and Simon Munro, surviving partners of Kelsall, Andrew Darling, and Munro, February 1, 1775 [Col DD, pp. 138-40]
Sold by Comm. of Conf. Estates to Robert Grier, June 19, 1782 [Sales]
Sold by Comm. of Conf. Estates to John Kell, November 1, 1783 [Col BBB, pp. 243-47]
Owned by Estate of John Kell, March 14, 1789 [Lib B, p. 321]

Lot 17: Originally deeded to Francis Arthur [Jones]
Mortgaged by Thomas Carr to George J. Turner, February 1, 1769 [Col Mortgages A, pp. 167-69]
Mortgaged by Mary Miller to John Blackstock, June 15, 1791 [Lib B, pp. 387-90]

Lot 18: Originally deeded to Robert Baillie, June 11, 1761 [Lib A (II),

Lot 18: p. 46]
(cont.) Subsequently owned by James Derwell [Jones]

Lot 19: Originally deeded to Swinton and Co. [Jones]
Sold by Sunbury Board of Commissioners, for failure to pay taxes, July 7, 1807, to Jesse McCall [Lib F, pp. 216-17]
Sold by Bank of Darien, January 29, 1829, to Eliza G. Roberts [Lib I, p. 441]

Lot 20: Originally deeded to Thomas Peacock, October 1, 1759 [Col X-2, p. 967]
Sold by William Peacock, son of Thomas, to John Dollar, May 2, 1788 [Lib B, p. 210]

Lot 21: Sold by John Perkins and wife Christian to Andrew Darling, October 20, 1764 [Col C-2, pp. 866-68]
Sold by Georgia Provost Marshal to James MacKay, September 6, 1775, confiscated from Estate of Darling [Col DD, pp. 220-23]
Given by Mary Bilney, November 15, 1780 [Lib B, p. 6]
Sold by Liberty Co. sheriff to Joseph Jones, April 6, 1830, confiscated from Estate of James Holmes [Lib I, pp. 442-43]
Owned by Joseph Jones in 1844 and 1846, "where the late James Holmes resided" [Lib Wills B, pp. 400-05]

Lot 22: Originally deeded to Thomas Young [Jones]
To be sold at public auction by the Georgia Provost Marshal [Gaz, February 14, 1765, p. 5/2]
Sold by Provost Marshal to Simon Munro, September 2, 1768, confiscated from James Rutherford [Col U, pp. 3-4]
Sold by Munro to Simon Paterson, June, 1781 [LC]
Sold by Comm. of Conf. Estates to John Baker, June 19, 1782 [Sales]
Sold by Col. John Baker and wife Mary to John Baker, Jr., February 10, 1792 [Lib B, pp. 458-60]
Sold by Liberty Co. sheriff to Joseph Jones, April 6, 1830, confiscated from Estate of James Holmes [Lib I, pp. 442-43]
Owned by Joseph Jones in 1844 and 1846, "where the late James Holmes resided" [Lib Wills B, pp. 400-05]

Lot 23: Originally deeded to Thomas Young [Jones]
Sold by Provost Marshal to Simon Munro, September 2, 1768, confiscated from James Rutherford [Col U, pp. 3-4]
Sold by Munro to Simon Paterson, June, 1781 [LC]
Sold by Comm. of Conf. Estates to John Hardy, January 13, 1783 [Lib A (II), pp. 109-10]
Sold by John Hardy and wife Mary to Job Pray and Joseph Foster, July 15, 1786 [Lib A (II), pp. 111-13]
To be sold by Foster and Pray [Gaz, July 19, 1787, p. 2/1]
Sold by Liberty Co. sheriff to James Holmes, confiscated from Joseph Foxter, April 16, 1795 and June 6, 1794 [Lib C, p. 223; Lib DD, p. 163]
Sold by Liberty Co. sheriff to Joseph Jones, April 6, 1830, confiscated from Estate of James Holmes [Lib I, pp. 442-43]
Owned by Joseph Jones in 1844 and 1846, "where the late James Holmes resided" [Lib Wills B, pp. 400-05]

Lot 24: Originally deeded to Roger Kelsall [Jones]
Sold by Comm. of Conf. Estates to Job Pray, January 2, 1784 [Col BBB, pp. 241-43]
To be sold by Foster and Pray [Gaz, July 19, 1787, p. 2/1]
Sold by Liberty Co. sheriff to James Holmes, confiscated from Joseph Foster, April 16, 1795, and June 6, 1794 [Lib C, p. 223; Lib DD, p. 163]
Sold by Liberty Co. sheriff to Joseph Jones, April 6, 1830, confiscated from Estate of James Holmes [Lib I, pp. 442-43]
Owned by Joseph Jones in 1844 and 1846, "where the late James Holmes resided" [Lib Wills B, pp. 400-05]

Lot 25: Originally deeded to John James
Sold by Liberty Co. sheriff to John Baker, July 5, 1785, confiscated from Estate of William Watson [Lib A (II), p. 50]
Sold by Col. John Baker and wife Mary to Stephen Baker, August 1, 1791 [Lib B, pp. 426-27]
Sold by Stephen Baker and wife Martha to Andrew Maybank, trustee for Mary Ann Baker, September 2, 1791 [Lib B, pp. 427-29]
Sold by John Jackson Maxwell and wife Mary Ann to Samuel Wilkins, April 13, 1810 [Lib G, pp. 332-33]

Lot 26: Originally deeded to Joseph Bacon [Jones]
Sold by Col. John Baker and wife Mary to Stephen Baker, August 1, 1791 [Lib B, pp. 426-27]
Sold by Stephen Baker and wife Martha to Andrew Maybank, in trust for Mary Ann Baker, September 2, 1791 [Lib B, pp. 427-29]
Sold by John Jackson Maxwell and wife Mary Ann to Samuel Wilkins, April 13, 1810 [Lib G, pp. 332-33]

Lot 27: Originally deeded to John Stewart, Sr. [Jones]
Sold by John Lupton to George Chalmers, June 23, 1766 [Col S, pp. 250-51]
Sold by Georgia Provost Marshal to Peter Sallens, October 20, 1772, confiscated from the Estate of George Chalmers [Col X-2, pp. 966-67]
Sold by the Liberty Co. sheriff to Adam Alexander, August 6, 1799, confiscated from Arthur Carney and Charles Kent [Lib G, p. 152]

Lot 28: Originally deeded to John Lupton [Jones]
Sold by John Lupton to George Chalmers, June 23, 1766 [Col S, pp. 250-51]
Sold by Georgia Provost Marshal to Peter Sallens, October 20, 1772, confiscated from George Chalmers [Col X-2, pp. 966-67]
Sold by Liberty Co. sheriff to Adam Alexander, August 6, 1799, confiscated from Arthur Carney and Charles Kent [Lib G, p. 152]

Lot 29: 30 Originally deeded to John Dunbar, Thomas Young, and John Simpson, June 17, 1763 [Col Bond O, p. 89]
Sold by Thomas Young and John Simpson, surviving partners, to John Jones, Gideon Dupont, and John Brewton, October 10, 1774 [Col DD, pp. 136-38]

Lot 29: 30 (cont.) Sold by Liberty Co. Tax Collector to John Jones, "Jr.," February 12, 1798, confiscated from John Jones and Company [Lib DD, pp. 239-40]
Given by Mrs. Susannah H. Jones, widow of John Jones, "Jr.," to his children: Elizabeth, John, Susannah Mary, and Charles Colcock, June 16, 1808 [Lib F, pp. 211-12]
Sold by three surviving Jones children to Joseph Jones, August 6, 1811, September 1, 1827, and June 21, 1827 [Lib G, pp. 134-35; Lib I, p. 236; Lib I, p. 242]
Given by Joseph Jones to daughter Mary, wife of Rev. C.C. Jones, 1846 [Lib Wills B, pp. 400-05]

Lot 31: Originally deeded to John Elliott [Jones]

Lot 32: Originally deeded to James Dunham, October 6, 1760 [Col X-2, p. 1071]
Sold by Col. John Baker and wife Mary to Stephen Baker, August 1, 1791 [Lib B, pp. 426-27]
Sold by Stephen Baker and wife Martha to Andrew Maybank, trustee for Matilda Amanda Baker [Lib B, pp. 429-31]

Lot 33: 34 Originally deeded to Lyman Hall [Jones]

Lot 35: Originally deeded to Samuel Miller, January 7, 1760 [Lib A (II), p. 78]
Sold by Liberty Co. sheriff to Francis Saltus, June 15, 1787, confiscated as property of Alexander Stuart's estate [Lib B, pp. 68-69]

Lot 36: Originally deeded to Kenneth Baillie, Snr. [Jones]

Lot 37: Originally deeded to Samuel Bennersworth [Jones]
Owned by Thomas Young, 1782 [LC]
Sold by the Comm. of Conf. Estates to Samuel West, June 19, 1782 [Sales]
Sold by the Comm. of Conf. Estates to William McIntosh the younger, February 11, 1785 [Lib B, pp. 424-25]
Inherited by John Howell and wife Margaret from estate of John Croft, December 4, 1806 [Lib F, pp. 168-70]

Lot 38: Originally deeded to Samuel Bennerworth [Jones]
Owned by Thomas Young, 1782 [LC]
Sold by Comm. of Conf. Estates to John Jenkins, June 19, 1782 [Sales]

Lot 39: 40 Originally deeded to William Saverson [Jones]
To be sold by Provost Marshal, late property of William Saverson [Gaz, February 24, 1768, p. 3/1]
Sold by Liberty Co. sheriff to John Croft, April 3, 1798, confiscated from William Jones [Lib D, pp. 142-44]
Inherited by John Howell and wife Margaret from estate of John Croft, December 4, 1806 [Lib F, pp. 168-70]

Lot 41: Originally deeded to Mark Carr [Jones]

Lot 41: (cont.) Sold by Henry Myers to Jane Peacock, August 28, 1794 [Lib C, pp. 179-80]

Lot 42: 43 Sold by Francis Arthur to Samuel Bacon, February 1, 1766 [Lib A (II), p. 97]
Given by Samuel Bacon to wife Tabitha, June 4, 1767 [Col V, pp. 270-71]
Sold by Samuel Bacon and wife Mary to Benjamin Andrew, December 8, 1773 [Col X-2, pp. 1056-57]
Sold by Benjamin Andrew and wife Mary to Francis Coddington, December 24, 1777 [Lib B, pp. 288-90]
Sold by Francis Coddington and wife Claudia to Elizabeth Bellinger Kelsall and Amelia Kelsall, October 2, 1778 [Lib G, pp. 211-13]
Sold by Francis Coddington to Amelia Kelsall, November 24, 1784 [Lib A (II), p. 39]
Sold by Joseph Johnson and William B. Johnson to Charles O. Screven, May 10, 1809 [Lib G, pp. 214-15]

Lot 44: Originally deeded to John Winn [Jones]
Sold by Peter Winn to Charles O. Screven, July 17, 1820 [Lib H, pp. 343-44]

Lot 45: 46 Originally deeded to David Jervey [Jones]
One-half of lots sold by Abraham Leggett to Myndert Van Yeveren and James James, March 24, 1788 [Lib C, pp. 181-82]
One-half of lots sold by John Lawson, Sr., and wife Elizabeth to Myndert Van Yeveren and James James, Jr., January 27, 1789 [Lib B, pp. 182-84]
One-half of lots sold by John Couper and wife Rebecca to Lachlan McIntosh, May 23, 1795 [Lib C, pp. 201-02]
One-half of lots sold by Lachlan McIntosh and wife Mary Persiana to Jan Molich, April 13, 1797 [Lib DD, pp. 202-05]
One-half of lots sold by Jan Molich to Christian Leopold Schmidt, September 10, 1797 [Lib DD, pp. 205-08]
One-third interest in one-half of lots sold by John Lawson to Adam Alexander and Hannah Peacock, January 9, 1811 [Lib G, p. 225]
Interest in one-half of lots given by Hannah Peacock to Louisa F., Louisa, and Adam, heirs of Adam Alexander, October 3, 1815 [Alexander-Hillhouse Papers, Southern Historical Collection, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, N.C.]
One-half of lots sold by heirs of Adam Alexander to Charles O. Screven, May 15, 1818 [Lib H, p. 152]

Lot 47: Originally deeded to Francis Arthur [Jones]
Sold by Grey Elliott to Jane Lee, April 7, 1773 [Lib A (II), pp. 161-64]
Sold by Isabella Calhoun, daughter of John Rogers, to Charles O. Screven, April 20, 1818 [Lib H, p. 153]

Lot 48: Originally deeded to Francis Lee [Jones]
Sold by the Provost Marshal to Grey Elliott, December 27, 1762, confiscated as the property of John MacKay [Lib A (II), pp. 160-61]

Lot 48: (cont.)
Sold by Grey Elliott to Jane Lee, April 7, 1773 [Lib A (II), pp. 161-64]
Sold by Isabella Calhoun, daughter of John Rogers, to Charles O. Screven, April 20, 1818 [Lib H, p. 153]
Sold by Nicholas Seliwich to Charles O. Screven, February 19, 1827 [Lib I, p. 214]

Lot 49:
Originally deeded to John Quarterman, Jr. [Jones]
Given by John Quarterman to his son Elijah, 1769 [Wills A, pp. 332-36]

Lot 50:
Originally deeded to Robert Baillie, June 11, 1761 [Lib A (II), p. 46]
Subsequently owned by James Dowell [Jones]
Owned by Thomas Morris [LC, Simon Paterson]
Sold by Provost Marshal to Simon Paterson, confiscated from Thomas Morris [LC, Simon Paterson]

Lot 51:
Originally deeded to John Irvine [Jones]
Owned by Thomas Morris [LC, Simon Paterson]
Sold by Provost Marshal to Simon Paterson, confiscated from Thomas Morris [LC, Simon Paterson]

Lot 52:
Originally deeded to James Jones [Col U, pp. 425-30]

Lot 53:
Originally deeded to James Jones [Col U, pp. 425-30]
Sold by Jones to John Lawson [Col U, pp. 425-30]
Sold by John Lawson, Sr. and wife Elizabeth to Andrew Darling and Simon Munro, November 25, 1786 [Col U, pp. 425-30]
Sold by Simon Munro, surviving partner of Darling and Munro, to Thomas Peacock, February 20, 1773 [Col X-2, pp. 912-13]
Given by William Peacock to Mrs. Hannah Chalmers, widow of George Chalmers, May 31, 1774 [Lib A (II), pp. 156-57]
Sold by Hannah Peacock (formerly Chalmers), widow of William Peacock, to Adam Alexander, April 30, 1804 [Lib F, pp. 58-59]

Lot 54:
Sold by James Rutherford to Matthew Smallwood, December 23, 1768 [Col X-1, p. 71]
Sold by Matthew Smallwood to William Peacock, Jr., June 8, 1771 [Col X-1, pp. 71-72]
Sold by the heirs of William Peacock to Adam Alexander, March 1, 1810 [Alexander-Hillhouse Papers, Southern Historical Collection]

Lot 55:
Originally deeded to William Peacock, October 1, 1759 [Col X-1, p. 365]
Given by William Peacock to his son William, April 21, 1764 [Col X-1, p. 204]
Sold by the Comm. of Sunbury to Dr. Adam Alexander, July 7, 1807 [Lib G, p. 27]

Lot 56:
Originally deeded to Isaac Lines [Jones]
Sold by Estate of Isaac Lines to William Peacock, July 12, 1771 [Col X-1, pp. 72-73]
Sold by William Peacock, Sr., and wife Hannah to Robert Cumming, May 4, 1787 [Lib B, pp. 62-63]

Lot 56: (cont.) Owned by Mrs. Mary Anderson, widow of David Anderson, and second wife of Peter Dunworth, October 10, 1785 [Lib B, p. 75]
Sold by the Comm. of Sunbury to Dr. Adam Alexander, July 7, 1807 [Lib G, p. 27]

Lot 57: Originally deeded to John Osgood [Jones]
Given by John Osgood to his nephew Thomas Baker, 1773 [Wills AA, pp. 53-57]
Sold by Thomas Baker to Peter Conworth, June 23, 1785 [Lib A (II), p. 32]

Lot 58: Originally deeded to Rebecca Way [Jones]
Sold by William Simpson to Richard Stevens, March 20, 1771 [Col X-1, pp. 98-99]
Sold by Richard Stevens to William Rheny, August 15, 1771 [Col X-1, p. 99]

Lot 59: Originally deeded to John Stewart, Sr. [Jones]
Owned by estate of John Kell, March 14, 1789 [Lib B, p. 321]

Lot 60: Originally deeded to John Lupton [Jones]
Owned by estate of John Kell, March 14, 1789 [Lib B, p. 321]

Lot 61: Originally deeded to James Dunham, October 6, 1760 [Col X-2, p. 1071]
Sold by Col. John Baker and wife Mary to Stephen Baker, August 1, 1791 [Lib B, pp. 426-27]
Sold by Stephen Baker and wife Martha to Andrew Maybank, trustee for Matilda Amanda Baker, September 2, 1791 [Lib B, pp. 429-31]

Lot 62: Originally deeded to John Shave [Jones]

Lot 63: Originally deeded to Jacob Lockerman [Jones]
Owned by Thomas Young, 1782 [LC]

Lot 64: Originally deeded to Paynter Dickinson [Jones]
Given by Paynter Dickinson to son Thomas, 1767 [Wills A, pp. 327-29]

Lot 65: 66 Originally deeded to John Lawson [Jones]
Given by John Lawson to daughter Esther, wife of Alexander Harvie, May 10, 1774 [Col Bond Y-2, pp. 447-49]
Given by Esther Alexander, wife of Adam Alexander and former wife of Alexander Harvie, to her husband, August 18, 1800 [Lib F, pp. 56-57]
Sold by Adam Alexander to Mrs. Hannah Peacock, April 30, 1804 [Lib F, pp. 61-63]
Sold by Jedidiah Field and wife Elizabeth to John Baggs, July 16, 1812 [Lib G, p. 197]

Lot 67: Originally deeded to Thomas Ralph [Jones]
Sold by John Lawson to Theophilus Elsworth, March 3, 1774 [Col X-2, pp. 1123-24]

Lot 68: Originally deeded to John Quarterman, Sr. [Jones]

Lot 68: (cont.) Given by John Quarterman to son Richard, 1765 [Wills A, pp. 129-31]
Sold by Comm. of Sunbury to Miss Ann Cubbedge, July 7, 1807 [Lib G, p. 26]

Lot 69: Originally deeded to Thomas Gouldsmith [Jones]

Lot 70: Originally deeded to James Houstoun [Jones]
Sold by the Comm. of Sunbury to Paul Hamilton Wilkins, July 7, 1809 [Lib F, p. 218]

Lot 71: Originally deeded to John Stevens [Jones]

Lot 72: Originally deeded to Mark Carr [Jones]
Given by Mark Carr to his daughter Elizabeth, 1760 or 1761 [Lib A (II), p. 60]
Sold by the Comm. of Sunbury to Paul H. Wilkins, July 7, 1809 [Lib F, p. 218]

Lot 73: Originally deeded to Hugh Clark [Jones]
74 Sold by the Comm. of Sunbury to John Kell, trustee for Adam Holmes, July 7, 1809 [Lib F, p. 220]

Lot 75: Originally deeded to Kenneth Baillie, Sr., January 2, 1759 [Lib
76 A (II), p. 46]

Lot 77: Originally deeded to Parmenas Way, January 2, 1759 [Lib A (II), p. 32]
Sold by Liberty Co. sheriff to John Couper and James Hamilton, July 25, 1791, confiscated as property of John Hardy's estate [Lib B, pp. 417-18]
Sold by John Couper and wife Rebecca to St. John's Lodge #6, F&AM, November 4, 1805 [Lib F, p. 180]

Lot 78: Originally deeded to Nathaniel Yates [Jones]
To be sold by Provost Marshal, property of Nathaniel Yates [Gaz, September 12, 1765, p. 2/2]
Sold by Nathaniel Saxton to Francis Washington, April 19, 1786 [Lib B, pp. 150-51]
Mortgaged by William H. Torrens to Robert Bolton, 1795 [Lib C, pp. 206-07]

Lot 79: Originally deeded to William Dunham [Jones]
Sold by John Dunham to Mary Dunham, widow, February 8, 1784 [Lib B, pp. 163-65]
Sold by Mary Dunham to John Elliott, February 28, 1786 [Lib B, pp. 4-5]
Sold by Cyrus Gildersleeve and wife Rinchie to William Hunter Torrens, March 4, 1795 [Lib C, pp. 188-90]
Sold by Liberty Co. sheriff to Andrew Rodes, January 28, 1806 Lib F, pp. 200-01]
Given by Andrew Rodes to his granddaughter, Elizabeth Ann Lanchester, and his wife Phoebe, October, 1813 [Lib G, p. 268]

Lot 80: Originally deeded to Charles West [Jones]

Lot 80: (cont.) Sold by Charles West to Donald Fraser, September 26, 1775 [LC, Donald Fraser]

Lot 81: Originally deeded to Daniel Slade [Jones]
Sold by William Maxwell to Abiel Holmes, March 27, 1788 [Lib B, pp. 179-80]
Sold by Abiel Holmes and wife Sarah to Dr. Liberty Holmes, September 21, 1801 [Lib E, p. 61]
Sold by Liberty Holmes to trustees of Sunbury Academy, March 22, 1802 [Lib E, pp. 101-03]

Lot 82: Originally deeded to Jacob Lockerman [Jones]

Lot 83: Originally deeded to Samuel West [Jones]
Owned by estate of John Kell, March 14, 1789 [Lib B, p. 321]

Lot 84: Originally deeded to Thomas Carter, P. Schmidt [Jones]
Sold by James Carter and wife Martha to Phillip Jacob Schmidt, March 9, 1791 [Lib B, pp. 361-62]

Lot 85: Originally deeded to John Elliott, July 7, 1760 [Lib B, p. 95]
86

Lot 87: Originally deeded to William Baker [Jones]
Given by William Baker to his son William, 1767 [Wills A, pp. 208-12]
Sold by William Baker and wife Elizabeth to Allis Cole, widow, February 28, 1786 [Lib A (II), pp. 102-04]
Given by Allis Cole to her son James Cole, June 12, 1787 [Lib B, p. 41]
Sold by James Armstrong Cole to William Woodard, January 19, 1789 [Lib B, pp. 167-68]
Owned by William Woodward, July 7, 1789 [Lib B, p. 352]

Lot 88: Originally deeded to William Baker [Jones]
Given by William Baker to his son William, 1767 [Wills A, pp. 208-12]
Sold by William Baker and wife Elizabeth to Allis Cole, February 28, 1786 [Lib A (II), pp. 102-04]
Owned by John Cole and Harriett Cobb, July 7, 1789 [Lib B, p. 352]

Lot 89: Originally deeded to Audley Maxwell [Jones]

Lot 90: Originally deeded to Elizabeth Simmons [Jones]

Lot 91: Originally deeded to John Graves [Jones]
92 Sold by Joseph Turner and wife Francis to Mary Baker, March 20, 1802 [Lib E, p. 146]

Lot 93: Originally deeded to Robert Bolton, April 8, 1760 [Col X-2, p. 1077]
Sold by Robert Bolton and wife Ann to Thomas Young, November 13, 1773 [Col X-2, pp. 1077-78]
Owned by Thomas Young, 1782 [LC]

Lot 93: (cont.) Sold by Comm. of Conf. Estates to John Jenkins, June 19, 1782 [Sales]

Lot 94: Originally deeded to John Baker [Jones]
Sold by Liberty Co. sheriff to Stephen Timmons, February 6, 1798, confiscated as property of Estate of John Groves [Lib DD, pp. 287-89]
Sold by Benjamin Smallwood to Jonathan Bacon, son of Nathaniel, January 13, 1794 [Lib C, p. 124]

Lot 95: Originally deeded to John Humphreys [Jones]

Lot 96: Originally deeded to James Fisher, Francis Guilland [Jones]

Lot 97: 98 Originally deeded to John Lupton [Jones]

Lot 99: Originally deeded to Henry Saltus [Jones]
Owned by estate of Henry Saltus, October 7, 1797 [Lib E, pp. 74-75]

Lot 100: Originally deeded to Donald MacKay [Jones]
Sold by Dr. Nathan Dryer and wife Eliza to Elizabeth Munro [Lib F, p. 27]
Given by Elizabeth Munro to John Stevens, February 9, 1807 [Lib F, pp. 158-60]

Lot 101: 102 Originally deeded to Stephen Dickinson [Jones]
Sold by estate of Stephen Dickinson to John Hardy, April 17, 1787 [Lib A (II), pp. 170-71]
Sold by Liberty Co. sheriff to Mrs. Mary Hardy, widow of John, June 1, 1791, confiscated from John Hardy's estate [Lib F, pp. 55-56]
Sold by Liberty Co. Tax Collector to James Cashen, December 22, 1794, confiscated as property of Daniel Henry [Lib DD, pp. 245-46]

Lot 103: Originally deeded to William Clark [Jones]
Sold by William Clark to John Lawson, trustee for his children, May 7, 1796 [Lib E, p. 76]

Lot 104: Originally deeded to Thomas Christie [Jones]
Sold by William Clark to John Lawson, trustee for his children, May 7, 1796 [Lib E, p. 76]

Lot 105: Originally deeded to Samuel Jeans [Jones]
Sold by Samuel Jeans to Mary Drew, May 5, 1789 [Col U, pp. 343-45]

Lot 106: Originally deeded to Moses Way [Jones]

Lot 107: Originally deeded to William David [Jones]

Lot 108: Originally deeded to Paynton Dickinson, April 6, 1761 [Col CC, pp. 591-93]

Lot 108: (cont.) Given by Paynter Dickinson to his son Thomas, 1767 [Wills A, pp. 327-29]
Sold by Thomas Dickinson to Jeremiah Poulton, November 7, 1769 (Col CC, pp. 591-93]

Lot 109: Originally deeded to Francis Lee [Jones]

Lot 110: Originally deeded to Francis Lee, January 7, 1760 [Lib A (II), p. 164]
Sold by Comm. of Sunbury to John William Wilkins, July 7, 1809 [Lib F, p. 219]

Lot 111: Originally deeded to James Harley [Jones]
Sold by Comm. of Sunbury to John William Wilkins, July 7, 1809 [Lib F, p. 219]

Lot 112: Originally deeded to Samuel Bacon [Jones]

Lot 113: Originally deeded to Tabitha Bacon [Jones]

Lot 114: Originally deeded to John Stewart, Sr. [Jones]
115 Given by John Stewart to daughters Sarah, Susanna, and Elizabeth,
116 1776 [Wills AA, pp. 249-52]

Lot 117: Originally deeded to Stephen Dickinson [Jones]
118

Lot 119: Originally deeded to John Elliott [Jones]
120 Sold by Liberty Co. sheriff to John Croft, September 24, 1793, confiscated as property of Alexander McIver [Lib D, pp. 141-42]
Inherited by Louisa and Harriet Croft from estate of John Croft, December 4, 1806 [Lib F, pp. 168-70]

Lot 121: Originally deeded to Benjamin Stevens [Jones]

Lot 122: Originally deeded to John Lynn [Jones]
123

Lot 124: Sold by Patrick MacKay to Helen Gordon and Alexander Duff, December 23, 1768 [Col V, pp. 5-12]
Sold by Henry Myers and wife Mary to William Hammett, May 30, 1795 [Lib C, pp. 202-04]

Lot 125: Originally deeded to John Sutherland [Jones]
126 To be sold by Provost Marshal, property of Sutherland [Gaz, January 25, 1775, p. 4/1]
Sold by Comm. of Sunbury to Jesse McCall, July 7, 1809 [Lib F, pp. 216-17]

Lot 127: Originally deeded to Samuel Jeanes [Jones]
Sold by Comm. of Sunbury to Jesse McCall, July 7, 1809 [Lib F, pp. 216-17]

Lot 128: Originally deeded to Samuel Jeanes [Jones]

Lot 129: Originally deeded to Joseph Tickener [Jones]

Lot 130: Originally deeded to William Miller [Jones]
Sold by Comm. of Conf. Estates to Samuel West, June 19, 1782 [Sales]

Lot 131: Originally deeded to Richard Mills [Jones]
132

Lot 133: Originally deeded to Peter McKay [Jones]

Lot 134: Originally deeded to James Miller [Jones]

Lot 135: Originally deeded to James Miller [Jones]
Sold by Samuel Miller to William Love, November 16, 1771 [Col X-2, p. 1001]

Lot 136: Originally deeded to David Jervey [Jones]
Sold by Hunphrey Primies, free Negro, to William Love, November 16, 1771 [Col X-2, p. 1001]
Sold by Comm. of Sunbury to Paul H. Wilkins, July 7, 1809 [Lib F, p. 218]

Lot 137: Originally deeded to William Davis [Jones]
138

Lot 139: Originally deeded to Josiah Serjeant, May 6, 1760 [Lib A (I), p. 79]
Sold by John Bradwell and wife Ann to Thomas Blacksill, June 23, 1785 [Lib A (II), p. 13]

Lot 140: Originally deeded to John Jones, mulatto, January 2, 1759 [Col C-1, p. 492]

Lot 141: Originally deeded to Strong Ashmore [Jones]
Sold by John Evans to George Foster, July 6, 1787 [Lib B, p. 15]
Sold by George Foster to Gideon Denison, April 3, 1789 [Lib B, pp. 186-87]
Sold by Comm. of Sunbury to Paul Hamilton Wilkins, July 7, 1809 [Lib F, p. 218]

Lot 142: Originally deeded to Francis Arthur [Col X-1, pp. 465-67]
Sold by Provost Marshal to Grey Elliott [Col X-1, pp. 465-67]
Sold by Grey Elliott to John Cubbedge, June 4, 1772 [Col X-1, pp. 465-67]
Sold by George Cubbedge to John Collar, July 26, 1786 [Lib B, p. 22]

Lot 143: Originally deeded to Donald MacKay [Col X-1, pp. 462-65]
144 Sold by Donald MacKay to Grey Elliott [Col X-1, pp. 462-65]
Sold by Grey Elliott to John Dubbedge, June 6, 1772 [Col X-1, pp. 462-65]
Sold by Bryan Co. sheriff to Ann Rebecca Cubbedge, April 15, 1797, confiscated as property of estate of John Cubbedge [Lib DD, pp. 284-87]

Lot 145: Originally deeded to Andrew Way [Jones]

Lot 146: Originally deeded to James Fisher [Jones]

Lot 147: Originally deeded to George Monis [Jones]
Sold by Comm. of Sunbury to John William Wilkins, July 7, 1809 [Lib F, p. 219]

Lot 148: Originally deeded to Thomas Way [Jones]
Sold by Joseph Way, son of Thomas, to Davis Austin, December 6, 1785 [Lib B, pp. 13-14]
Sold by Liberty Co. sheriff to Jan Molich, October 5, 1797, confiscated as property of Mary Ann Austin [Lib DD, pp. 238-39]

Lot 149: Originally deeded to James Hatcher [Jones]
150

Lot 151: Originally deeded to Francis Arthur [Jones]
152
153
154

Lot 155: Originally deeded to John Perkins [Col X-1, p. 365]
156 Sold by John Perkins to William Peacock [Col X-1, p. 365]
Sold by William Peacock to Thomas Tullalone, December 18, 1766 [Col S, pp. 20-21]
Sold by Mrs. Christian Lewis, formerly widow of John Perkins, to Noel Fleming, May 6, 1790 [Lib B, pp. 280-81]

Lot 157: Originally deeded to William Lowe [Jones
Sold by Comm. of Sunbury to John William Wilkins, July 7, 1809 [Lib F, p. 219]

Lot 158: Originally deeded to William Lowe [Jones]

Lot 159: Originally deeded to Sarah West, July 7, 1760 [Lib B, p. 520]
160 Given by Samuel West to Susannah Duncan, daughter of David Duncan, August 21, 1787 [Lib B, p. 93]

Lot 161: Originally deeded to Elizabeth West, July 7, 1760 [Col X-1, pp.
162 270-71]

Lot 163: Originally deeded to William Peacock, May 4, 1761 [Col X-1, p. 365]
Sold by William Peacock to Thomas Tullalone, December 18, 1766 [Col S, pp. 20-21]

Lot 164: Originally deeded to William Peacock, October 1, 1759 [Col X-1, p. 364]
Sold by William Peacock to Thomas Tullalone, December 18, 1766 [Col S, pp. 20-21]

Lot 165: Originally deeded to Charles West [Jones]
166 Sold by Comm. of Sunbury to Paul H. Wilkins, July 7, 1809 [Lib F, p. 218]

Lot 167: Originally deeded to William Davis [Jones]
168 Sold by Comm. of Sunbury to Paul H. Wilkins, July 7, 1809 [Lib F, p. 218]

Lot 169: Originally deeded to Francis Lee, July 4, 1760 [Lib A (II), p.
170 165]
Sold by Comm. of Sunbury to Paul H. Wilkins, July 7, 1809 [Lib F, p. 218]

Lot 171: Originally deeded to Thomas Vincent [Jones]
Sold by Comm. of Sunbury to Paul H. Wilkins, July 7, 1809 [Lib F, p. 218]

Lot 172: Originally deeded to Benjamin Baker [Jones]
Sold by estate of Benjamin Baker to John Dollar, September 2, 1787 [Lib B, pp. 211-12]

Lot 173: Originally deeded to Grey Elliott [Jones]
174 Sold by Comm. of Sunbury to Paul H. Wilkins, July 7, 1809 [Lib
175 F, p. 218]
176

Lot 177: Originally deeded to John Lupton [Jones]
178 Sold by estate of John Lupton to John Dollar, February 3, 1787 [Lib B, pp. 16-17]

Lot 179: Originally deeded to John Lupton [Jones]
180 Sold by Comm. of Sunbury to Paul H. Wilkins, July 7, 1809 [Lib F, p. 219]

Lot 181: Originally deeded to Thomas Quarterman, October 6, 1760 [Col X-1, p. 530]

Lot 182: Originally deeded to Joseph Bacon [Jones]

Lot 183: Sold by Mark Carr and Sunbury Trustees to Patrick MacKay, April
184 5, 1767 [Lib B, pp. 534-41]
Sold by MacKay to Helen Gordon and Alexander Duff, December 23, 1768 [Col V, pp. 5-12]
Sold by Henry Myers and wife Mary to William Hammett, May 30, 1795 [Lib C, pp. 202-04]

Lot 185: Originally deeded to Susannah Jones [Jones]
Sold by Dr. Nathan Dryer and wife Eliza to Elizabeth Munro, August 17, 1804 [Lib F, p. 27]

Lot 186: Originally deeded to Susannah Jones [Jones]

Lot 187: Sold by Mark Carr and Sunbury Trustees to Patrick MacKay, April
188 5, 1767 [Lib B, pp. 534-41]
Sold by MacKay to Helen Gordon and Alexander Duff, December 23, 1768 [Col V, pp. 5-12]
Sold by Henry Myers and wife Mary to William Condiff, March 18, 1802 [Lib E, p. 113]

Lot 189: Originally deeded to Barnard Romans [Jones]

Lot 189: (cont.) Sold by Mark Carr and Sunbury Trustees to Patrick MacKay, April 5, 1767 [Lib B, pp. 534-41]
To be sold by Liberty Co. sheriff as property of Bernard Romans [Gaz, October 16, 1783, p. 2/3]
Sold by Liberty Co. sheriff to James Jackson, February 9, 1786, confiscated as property of Bernard Romans [Lib B, pp. 195-96]

Lot 190: 191 Originally deeded to Barnard Romans [Jones]
Sold by Mark Carr and Sunbury Trustees to Patrick MacKay, April 5, 1767 [Lib B, pp. 534-41]
To be sold by Liberty Co. sheriff as property of Barnard Romans [Gaz, October 16, 1783, p. 2/3]
Sold by Liberty Co. sheriff to David Duncan, February 9, 1786, confiscated as property of Barnard Romans [Lib B, pp. 18-19]
Sold by David Duncan and wife Martha to John Dollar, November 4, 1786 [Lib B, pp. 19-20]

Lot 192: Originally deeded to Barnard Romans [Jones]
Sold by Mark Carr and Sunbury Trustees to Patrick MacKay, April 5, 1767 [Lib B, pp. 534-41]
To be sold by Liberty Co. sheriff as property of Barnard Romans [Gaz, October 16, 1783, p. 2/3]
Sold by Liberty Co. sheriff to William Hunt, February 9, 1786, confiscated as property of Barnard Romans [Lib B, pp. 18-19]
Sold by William Hunt to John Dollar, May 31, 1786 [Lib B, pp. 24-25]

Lot 193: 194 Sold by Mark Carr and Sunbury Trustees to Patrick MacKay, April 5, 1767 [Lib B, pp. 534-41]
Sold by MacKay to Helen Gordon and Alexander Duff, December 23, 1768 [Col V, pp. 5-12]
Sold by Henry Myers and wife Mary to William Condiff, March 18, 1802 [Lib E, p. 113]

Lot 195: 196 197 Sold by Mark Carr and Sunbury Trustees to Patrick MacKay, April 5, 1767 [Lib B, pp. 534-41]
Sold by MacKay to Helen Gordon and Alexander Duff, December 23, 1768 [Col V, pp. 5-12]

Lot 198: 199 Sold by Mark Carr and Sunbury Trustees to Patrick MacKay, April 5, 1767 [Lib B, pp. 534-41]
Sold by MacKay to Helen Gordon and Alexander Duff, December 23, 1768 [Col V, pp. 5-12]
Owned by Henry Myers and wife Mary on June 9, 1797 [Lib DD, p. 210]

Lot 200: Originally deeded to John K. Zubley [Jones]
Sold by Comm. of Conf. Estates to Samuel West, June 19, 1782 [Sales]

Lot 201: 202 Sold by Mark Carr and Sunbury Trustees to Patrick MacKay, April 5, 1767 [Lib B, pp. 634-41]

Lot 201: 202 (cont.)
Sold by MacKay to Helen Gordon and Alexander Duff, December 23, 1768 [Col V, pp. 5-12]
Sold by Comm. of Conf. Estates to Samuel West, June 19, 1782 [Sales]
Sold by Henry Myers and wife Mary to William Condiff, March 18, 1802 [Lib E, p. 113]

Lot 203: 204
Originally deeded to Christian Camphir, April 6, 1761 [Col X-2, p. 987]
Sold by Mark Carr and Sunbury Trustees to Patrick MacKay, April 5, 1767 [Lib B, pp. 534-41]
Sold by MacKay to Helen Gordon and Alexander Duff, December 23, 1768 [Col V, pp. 5-12]
Given by Christian Camphir to wife Mary, and after her death to son Jeremiah and daughter Ann Nichols, 1774 [Wills AA, pp. 95-96]
Sold by Comm. of Conf. Estates to Samuel West, June 19, 1782 [Sales]
Sold (Lot 203 only) by Henry Myers and wife Mary to William Condiff, March 18, 1802 [Lib E, p. 113]

Lot 205: 206
Originally deeded to Edward Way [Jones]
Given by Edward Way to daughter Ann, 1763 [Wills A, pp. 93-94]

Lot 207: 208
Originally deeded to James Fisher [Jones]

Lot 209: 210
Originally deeded to Edward Mahan [Jones]

Lot 211: 212
Originally deeded to Richard Spencer [Jones]

Lot 213:
Originally deeded to William Swinton [Lib B, pp. 415-16]
Sold by Liberty Co. sheriff to John Dollar, August 4, 1791, confiscated as the property of John Mather [Lib B, pp. 415-16]

Lot 214:
Originally deeded to William Swinton [Jones]

Lot 215: 216
Originally deeded to William Swinton [Jones]
Sold by Comm. of Sunbury to Paul H. Wilkins, July 7, 1809 [Lib F, p. 219]

Lot 217: 218 219
Originally deeded to Samuel Jeanes [Jones]
Sold by Samuel Jeans and wife Sarah to Stephen Cater, April 18, 1764 [Col C-2, pp. 846-48]

Lot 220:
Originally deeded to Henry Saltus [Jones]
Owned by estate of Henry Saltus, October 7, 1797 [Lib E, pp. 74-75]

Lot 221: 222
Originally deeded to James Read [Jones]

Lot 223: 224
Originally deeded to Charles West [Jones]

Lot 225: Originally deeded to John Shave [Jones]
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Lot 227: Originally deeded to Richard Baker [Jones]
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Lot 229: Originally deeded to Marn'k Perry [Jones]
230 Sold by Comm. of Sunbury to James Smith, July 7, 1807 [Lib G, p. 40]

Lot 231: Originally deeded to Thomas Dunbar [Jones]
Sold by Comm. of Sunbury to James Smith, July 7, 1807 [Lib G, p. 40]

Lot 232: Originally deeded to Joshua Snowden [Jones]
Sold by Comm. of Sunbury to James Smith, July 7, 1807 [Lib G, p. 40]

Lot 233: Originally deeded to Samuel Burnley [Jones]
Given by Samuel Burnley to wife Elizabeth, 1767 [Wills A, pp. 238-43]
Given by William Simpson to wife Elizabeth, and at her death to unborn child, 1774 [Wills AA, pp. 90-92]

Lot 234: Originally deeded to Samuel Burnley [Jones]
Given by Samuel Burnley to daughter Sarah, 1767 [Wills A, pp. 238-43]
Sold by Comm. of Sunbury to James Smith, July 7, 1807 [Lib G, p. 40]

Lot 235: Originally deeded to Samuel Burnley [Jones]
Given by Samuel Burnley to daughter Elizabeth, 1767 [Wills A, pp. 238-43]
Sold by Comm. of Sunbury to James Smith, July 7, 1807 [Lib G, p. 40]

Lot 236: Originally deeded to Samuel Burnley [Jones]
Given by Samuel Burnley to daughter Mary, 1767 [Wills A, pp. 238-40]
Sold by William Bennett and wife Elizabeth to Edward Price, September 7, 1787 [Lib B, pp. 79-81]
Sold by Comm. of Sunbury to James Smith, July 7, 1807 [Lib G, p. 40]

Lot 237: Originally deeded to John Milchett [Jones]
238 Sold by Liberty Co. sheriff to Andrew Rodes, August 7, 1798, confiscated as property of John Mitchell, Sr. [Lib DD, pp. 289-91]

Lot 239: Originally deeded to James Andrew, January 2, 1759 [Col C-1, p.
240 397]
Given by James Andrew to his sons John and Thomas, 1771 [Wills A, pp. 398-400]
Sold by Joseph Way to William Woodward, February 18, 1790 [Lib B, pp. 251]

Lot 241: Originally deeded to William Dunham [Jones]
Sold by Charles Dunham and wife Ann to John Dunham, February 19, 1785 [Lib B, p. 64]
Sold by John Dunham and wife Sarah L. to Stafford Somarsall, December 5, 1785 [Lib B, pp. 65-66]

Lot 242: Originally deeded to William Dunham [Jones]
Sold by Samuel Morecock and wife Catherine to Roger Kelsall, January 27, 1775 [Col CC, pp. 454-56]
Sold by James Dunham to William Woodward, January 30, 1790 [Lib B, pp. 248-50]

Lot 243: Originally deeded to Samuel Jeanes [Jones]
Sold by Samuel Jeans and wife Sarah to Stephen Cater, April 18, 1764 [Col C-2, pp. 846-48]

Lot 244: Originally deeded to Winwood McIntosh, May 5, 1760 [Col X-2, p. 1015]
Sold by Winwood McIntosh to Alexander Harview [Col X-2, p. 1015]
Sold by Alexander Harvie and wife Esther to Mrs. Elizabeth Somarsall, wife of Stafford Somarsall, August 25, 1774 [Col Bonds Y-2, p. 374]

Lot 245: Originally deeded to David Jervey [Jones]
To be sold by the Provost Marshal as property of estate of Richard Burford [Gaz, January 25, 1775]
Sold by Catherine Morecock to David Rees, trustee for her children: Catherine, Sarah, William, and Lewis, July 10, 1784 [Lib A (II), p. 46]

Lot 246: Originally deeded to David Jervey [Jones]
To be sold by Frederick Holzendorff [Gaz, July 25, 1765, p. 3/1]
To be sold by Provost Marshal as property of Richard Burford [Gaz, January 25, 1775, p. 4/1]
Sold by Samuel Morecock and wife Catherine to Roger Kelsall, January 27, 1775 [Col CC, pp. 454-56]

Lot 247: Originally deeded to Francis Lee [Jones]
248 Given by Francis Lee to Mary Ann, wife of Frederick Holzendorff, July 6, 1761 [Col Bonds J, pp. 460-61]
To be sold by Frederick Holzendorff [Gaz, July 25, 1765, p. 3/1]
To be sold by Provost Marshal as property of Richard Burford, [Gaz, January 25, 1775, p. 4/1]
Sold by Samuel Morecock and wife Catherine to Roger Kelsall, January 27, 1775 [Col CC, pp. 454-56]

Lot 249: Originally deeded to Mark Carr [Jones]
250 Sold by Henry Myers and wife Mary to William Hammett, May 30, 1795 [Lib C, pp. 202-04]

Lot 251: Originally deeded to George Bodington [Jones]

Lot 252: Originally deeded to Mary Bateman, October 6, 1760 [Col X-1, pp. 104-05]
Given by Marty Bateman to grandson Benjamin Smallwood, 1773 [Wills AA, pp. 69-70]

Lot 254: Sold by Mark Carr and Sunbury Trustees to Patrick MacKay,
255 April 5, 1767 [Lib B, pp. 534-41]
256 Sold by MacKay to Helen Gordon and Alexander Duff, December 23, 1768 [Col V, pp. 5012]
Owned (Lot 255 only) by Henry Myers and wife Mary, June 9, 1797 [Lib DD, p. 210]

Lot 257: Originally deeded to Robert Bolton
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Lot 259: Sold by Mark Carr and Sunbury Trustees to Patrick MacKay, April
260 5, 1767 [Lib B, pp. 534-41]
261 Sold by MacKay to Helen Gordon and Alexander Duff, December 23,
262 1768 [Col V, pp. 5-12]
263 Owned (except Lot 262) by Henry Myers and wife Mary, June 9,
264 1797 [Lib DD, p. 210]

Lot 265: Originally deeded to Mark Carr [Jones]
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Lot 267: Originally deeded to John Bryan [Jones]
268 Sold by Comm. of Conf. Estates to Samuel West, June 19, 1782 [Sales]
Sold by Comm. of Conf. Estates to David Rees, March 1, 1785 [Lib A (II), pp. 35-36]

Lot 269: Originally deeded to Patrick MacKay [Jones]
270 Sold by MacKay to Stephen Drayton, August 8, 1772 [Col CC, pp. 905-07]
Foreclosed on by the Estate of Patrick MacKay, 1796 [Lib DD, pp. 158-59]

Lot 271: Originally deeded to Benjamin Andrew, July 7, 1760 [Col X-2, p. 992]
Sold by Liberty Co. sheriff to Edward Griffith, May 15, 1792, confiscated as property of John Hardy [Lib DD, pp. 213-14]

Lot 272: Originally deeded to Benjamin Andrew, January 2, 1759 [Lib A (II), p. 46]
Sold by Liberty Co. sheriff to Edward Griffith, May 15, 1792, confiscated as property of John Hardy [Lib DD, pp. 213-14]

Lot 273: Originally deeded to Morgan Tabb [Jones]
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Lot 277: Originally deeded to James Watcher [Jones]
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Lot 279: Originally deeded to Francis Arthur [Jones]
280 Mortgaged by Spencer Christopher to Joseph Jones, May 17, 1817 [Lib H, pp. 14-15]

Lot 281: Originally deeded to John Bryan [Jones]

Lot 281: (cont.) Sold by Comm. of Conf. Estates to Thomas Bailey, June 19, 1792 [Sales]
Sold by Comm. of Conf. Estates to Thomas White, February 11, 1784 [Lib B, pp. 144-45]
Sold by Comm. of Sunbury to John Kell, trustee for James Holmes, July 7, 1809 [Lib F, p. 220]

Lot 282: Originally deeded to Samuel Richardson [Jones]
Sold by Comm. of Conf. Estates to James Fields, June 19, 1782 [Sales]
Sold by Comm. of Estates to Thomas White, February 11, 1784 [Lib B, pp. 144-45]
Sold by Thomas White to Michael Rudulph, May 17, 1789 [Lib B, p. 203]
Sold by Comm. of Sunbury to John Kell, trustee for James Holmes, July 7, 1809 [Lib F, p. 220]

Lot 283: Originally deeded to John Gaspar Stirkey [Jones]
284 Sold by Comm. of Sunbury to John Kell, trustee for James Holmes, July 7, 1809 [Lib F, p. 220]

Lot 285: Originally deeded to John Jones, mulatto [Jones]

Lot 286: Sold by Mark Carr and Sunbury Trustees to Patrick MacKay, April
287 5, 1767 [Lib B, pp. 534-41]
288 Sold by MacKay to Helen Gordon and Alexander Duff, December 23, 1786 [Col V, pp. 5-12]

Lot 289: Originally deeded to Thomas Carter [Jones]
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Lot 291: Sold by Mark Carr and Sunbury Trustees to Patrick MacKay, April
290 5, 1767 [Lib B, pp. 534-41]
291 Sold by MacKay to Helen Gordon and Alexander Duff, December 23,
292 1786 [Col V, pp. 5-12]
293 Owned (Lots 294, 295 and 296 only) by Henry Myers and wife Mary,
294 June 9, 1797 [Lib DD, p. 210]
295 Sold (Lot 292 only) by Henry Myers and wife Mary to William Con-
296 diff, March 18, 1802 [Lib E, p. 113]
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Lot 300: Sold by Mark Carr and Sunbury Trustees to Patrick MacKay, April 5, 1767 [Lib B, pp. 534-41]
Owned by Henry Myers and wife Mary, June 9, 1797 [Lib DD, p. 210]

Lot 301: Sold by Mark Carr and Sunbury Trustees to Patrick MacKay, April
302 5, 1767 [Lib B, pp. 534-41]
303 Sold by MacKay to Helen Gordon and Alexander Duff, December 23,
304 1786 [Col V, pp. 5-12]
Owned (Lot 304 only) by Henry Myers and wife Mary, June 9, 1797 [Lib DD, p. 210]
Sold (Lots 301 and 302 only] by Henry Myers and wife Mary to William Condiff, March 18, 1802 [Lib E, p. 113]

Lot 305: Originally deeded to Thomas Carter [Jones]
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Lot 309: Sold by Mark Carr and Sunbury Trustees to Patrick MacKay, April
310 5, 1767 [Lib B, pp. 534-41]
311 Sold by MacKay to Helen Gordon and Alexander Duff, December 23,
312 1786 [Col V, pp. 5-12]
Owned (Lots 311 and 312 only] by Henry Myers and wife Mary,
June 9, 1797 [Lib DD, p. 210]

Lot 313: Originally deeded to Samuel Tomlinson, January 4, 1762 [Col
314 Bonds O, pp. 78-79]
Sold by Tomlinson to Arthur Carney, December 7, 1762 [Col Bonds
O, pp. 78-79]

Lot 315: Originally deeded to Samuel Tomlinson [Jones]

Lot 316: Sold by Mark Carr and Sunbury Trustees to Patrick MacKay, April
5, 1767 [Lib B, pp. 534-41]
Sold by MacKay to Helen Gordon and Alexander Duff, December 23,
1768 [Col V, pp. 5-12]
Sold by Henry Myers and wife Mary to Burgess Moore, May 5, 1795
[Lib C, pp. 229-30]

Lot 317: Originally deeded to William Swinton [Jones]
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Lot 321: Sold by Mark Carr and Sunbury Trustees to Patrick MacKay, April
322 5, 1767 [Lib B, pp. 534-41]
323 Sold by MacKay to Helen Gordon and Alexander Duff, December 23,
324 1768 [Col V, pp. 5-12]
325 Sold (Lots 320 and 330 only) by Henry Myers and wife Mary to
326 William Hammett, May 30, 1795 [Lib C, pp. 202-04]
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Lot 331: Sold by Mark Carr and Sunbury Trustees to Patrick MacKay, April
332 5, 1767 [Lib B, pp. 534-41]
Sold by Patrick MacKay to Stephen Drayton, August 8, 1772 [Col
CC, pp. 905-07]
Foreclosed on by estate of Patrick MacKay, 1796 [Lib DD, pp.
158-59]
Sold by Henry Myers and wife Mary to William Hammett, May 30,
1795 [Lib C, pp. 202-04]

Lot 333: Sold by Mark Carr and Sunbury Trustees to Patrick MacKay, April
334 5, 1767 [Lib B, pp. 534-41]
335 Sold by Patrick MacKay to Helen Gordon and Alexander Duff, Decem-
(cont.) ber 23, 1768 [Col V, pp. 5-12]

Lot 333: [Information for these lots on preceding page.]
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Lot 341: Sold by Mark Carr and Sunbury Trustees to Patrick MacKay, April
342 5, 1767 [Lib B, pp. 534-41]
Sold by Patrick MacKay to Stephen Drayton, August 8, 1772 [Col CC, pp. 905-06]
Foreclosed on by estate of Patrick MacKay, 1796 [Lib DD, pp. 158-59]

Lot 343: Sold by Mark Carr and Sunbury Trustees to Patrick MacKay, April
344 5, 1767 [Lib B, pp. 534-41]
345 Sold by Patrick MacKay to Helen Gordon and Alexander Duff,
346 December 23, 1768 [Col V, pp. 5-12]
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Lot 352: Originally deeded to Thomas Quarterman [Jones]

Lot 353: Originally deeded to Barrack Norman [Jones]
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Lot 356: Originally deeded to Tarah, Senior [Jones]

Lot 357: Originally deeded to Francis Arthur [Jones]
358 Sold by Provost Marshal to Basil Cowper, September 10, 1773, confiscated as property of Alexander Creighton [Col X-2, p. 1092]

Lot 359: Originally deeded to Frederick Holzendorff [Jones]
360 To be sold by Frederick Holzendorff [Gaz, July 25, 1765, p. 3/1]

Lot 361: Originally deeded to Joseph Richardson [Jones]
Owned by Roger Kelsall, 1782 [LC]
Sold by Comm. of Conf. Estates to John Dollar, June 19, 1782 [Sales]

Lot 362: Originally deeded to Joseph Richardson [Jones]

Lot 363: Sold by Mark Carr and Sunbury Trustees to Patrick MacKay, April
364 5, 1767 [Lib B, pp. 534-41]
365 Sold by Patrick MacKay to Helen Gordon and Alexander Duff,
366 December 23, 1768 [Col V, pp. 5-12]
(cont.)

Lot 363: [Information on these lots on preceding page.]
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Lot 373: Originally deeded to John Ford [Jones]

Lot 374: Sold by Mark Carr and Sunbury Trustees to Patrick MacKay, April
375 5, 1767 [Lib B, pp. 534-41]
376 Sold by Patrick MacKay to Helen Gordon and Alexander Duff,
377 December 23, 1768 [Col V, pp. 5-12]
378 Sold (Lot 378 only) by Henry Myers and wife Mary to William Con-
379 diff, March 18, 1802 [Lib E, p. 113]
380 Owned (Lots 374, 375, 376, 383, 385, 386, 389, and 391 only) by
381 Henry Myers and wife Mary, June 9, 1797 [Lib DD, p. 210]
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Lot 393: Originally deeded to Arthur Carney, May 5, 1760 [Col Bonds O,
pp. 77-78]
Sold by Mark Carr and Sunbury Trustees to Patrick MacKay, April
5, 1767 [Lib B, pp. 534-41]
Sold by MacKay to Helen Gordon and Alexander Duff, December 23,
1768 [Col V, pp. 5-12]

Lot 394: Sold by Mark Carr and Sunbury Trustees to Patrick MacKay, April
5, 1767 [Lib B, pp. 534-41]
Sold by MacKay to Helen Gordon and Alexander Duff, December 23,
1768 [Col V, pp. 5-12]

Lot 395: Sold by Mark Carr and Sunbury Trustees to Patrick MacKay, April
396 5, 1767 [Lib B, pp. 534-41]
Sold by MacKay to Helen Gordon and Alexander Duff, December 23,
1768 [Col V, pp. 5-12]
Sold by Provost Marshal to John Shick, August 11, 1773, confis-
cated as property of Alexander Creighton [Col X-2, pp. 990-
91]
Sold by William Hunter Torrens and wife Mary to Isaac Wood, Jan-
uary 5, 1796 [Lib DD, pp. 44-45]

Lot 397: Sold (except for Lots 403 and 404) by Mark Carr and Sunbury
398 Trustees to Patrick MacKay, April 5, 1767 [Lib B, pp. 534-
399 41]
400 Sold by MacKay to Helen Gordon and Alexander Duff, December 23,
401 1768 [Col V, pp. 5-12]
402 Given (Lot 409 only) by Joseph Hill to David, George, John, and
403 Elizabeth Ingersoll, January 31, 1801 [Lib E, pp. 82-83]
404 Owned (Lots 410, 412, 428 and 429 only) by Henry Myers and wife
405 Mary, June 9, 1797 [Lib DD, p. 210]
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Lot 431: Originally deeded to Marmaduke Gerry [Jones]
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Lot 434: Originally deeded to Isaac Smallwood, May 5, 1760 [Col X-2, p.
435 726]
Owned subsequently by Robert Smallwood [Jones]

Lot 436: Originally deeded to John Winn [Jones]

Lot 437: Originally deeded to Francis Arthur [Jones]
438 Sold by Provost Marshall to Basil Cowper, September 10, 1773,
daughter of Richard Capers, August 13, 1773, confiscated
as property of Alexander Creighton [Col X-2, pp. 1063-64]

Lot 439: Sold by Mark Carr and Sunbury Trustees to Patrick MacKay, April
440 5, 1767 [Lib B, pp. 534-41]
441 Sold by MacKay to Helen Gordon and Alexander Duff, December 23,
442 1768 [Col V, pp. 5-12]
443 Owned (Lots 441, 442, and 443 only) by Henry Myers and wife
(cont.) Mary, June 9, 1797 [Lib DD, p. 210]

Lot 439: Sold (Lots 409, 450, 465, and 472 only) by Joseph Hill to David,
440 John, George, and Elizabeth Ingersoll, January 31, 1801
441 [Lib E, pp. 82-83]
442 Sold (Lots 454, 455, and 456 only) by Henry Myers and wife Mary
443 to William Condiff [Lib E, p. 113]
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Lot 473: Originally deeded to Francis Arthur [Jones]
474 Sold by Provost Marshal to Basil Cowper, September 10, 1773,
475 confiscated as property of Alexander Creighton [Col X-2, p.
476 1092]
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Lot 478: Originally deeded to Samuel Bacon [Jones]

Lot 479: Originally deeded to Francis Lee [Jones]

Lot 480: Originally deeded to John Tutes [Jones]

Lot 481: Sold by Mark Carr and Sunbury Trustees to Patrick MacKay, April
482 5, 1767 [Lib B, pp. 534-41]
483 Sold by MacKay to Helen Gordon and Alexander Duff, December 23,
484 1768 [Col V, pp. 5-12]
485 Owned (Lots 483, 485, 486, 487, 489, 490, 492, 493, 494, and 496
486 only) by Henry Myers and wife Mary, June 9, 1767 [Lib DD,
(cont.) p. 210]

Lot 481: [Information on these lots on preceding page.]
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APPENDIX F

## The Residents

As has been stated previously in this history, the town of Sunbury has had a tremendous impact on the history of the state of Georgia, primarily because of the number of educated, refined, and patriotic citizens who were either intimately associated with the town or who actually called it home. Among these are all three of Georgia's signers of the Declaration of Independence: Lyman Hall, George Walton, and Button Gwinnett; two prominent United States senators: John Elliott and Alfred Cuthbert; one United States representative, John A. Cuthbert; two Georgia governors: Richard Howley and Nathan Brownson; and one United States minister to China, John E. Ward. In addition to these particularly outstanding men, many prominent doctors, lawyers, clergymen, soldiers, merchants, educators, and planters lived in Sunbury at one time.

Following is a partial listing of many of Sunbury's early residents, along with their occupations and dates of residence, as gleaned from various state and county records. This information is incomplete, not only because of the author's time limitations, but also because of the missing records which concern many of the inhabitants. However, in the hope that this partial collection will someday be further enlarged, this information has been included in this history. The following references are cited at the end of the entries in their abbreviated forms:

CM = Columbian Museum (newspaper)
Col = Colonial Georgia Deed, Bond, or Mortgage Book (Deed Book, unless otherwise specified)
CR = Colonial Georgia Records

Gaz = Georgia Gazette
LC = Loyalist Claim
Lib = Liberty County, Georgia, Deed Book
RR = Georgia Revolutionary Records
SR = Savannah Republican (newspaper)
Wills = Georgia Colonial Will Book

Alexander, Adam. Doctor of Physic; native of Scotland; Commissioner of Sunbury, 1785; married first Esther, daughter of John Lawson, Sr., and widow of Alexander Harvey (Esther died in Sunbury, October 4, 1800); married second Rachel Schmidt, March 10, 1802; died in Sunbury, March 3, 1812, aged 54 years. [CR XIX, Pt. II, p. 433; Lib C, p. 90; Lib F, p. 56; CM March 12, 1812; Gaz March 18, 1802; Gaz October 23, 1800]

Anderson, Mary. Widow of Capt. David Anderson; married Peter Donworth, Sunbury merchant, October 25, 1785. [Lib B, p. 75; Gaz October 27, 1785]

Andrew, Benjamin. Tax collector for Sunbury and St. John's Parish, 1768 and 1770. [CR XIX, Pt. I, pp. 37, 169]

Antrobus, Isaac. Comptroller and searcher of Customs for Sunbury, 1770. [Gaz May 19, 1763; Col Bond O, p. 237; Gaz October 4, 1769]

Arthur, Francis. Merchant, 1763 and 1764; died at Abercorn, 1769. [Gaz May 19, 1763; Col Bond O, p. 237; Gaz October 4, 1769]

Austin, Davis. Carpenter, 1785. [Lib B, p. 13]

Bacon, Josiah. Living in Sunbury, 1765; tax collector for the town and St. John's Parish, 1770 and 1773. [CR XIX, Pt. I, pp. 169, 454; Gaz June 13, 1765]

Bacon, Nathaniel. Living in Sunbury, 1791. [Lib B, p. 576]

Baillie, Kenneth, Sr. Died near Sunbury, July 9, 1766. [Gaz July 16, 1766]

Baillie, Kenneth, Jr. Died near Sunbury, December 17, 1766. [Gaz January 1, 1767]

Baker, Artemus. Son of William Baker; married Euphemia Darling, daughter of late Andrew Darling of Sunbury, October, 1787. [Gaz October 18, 1787; Lib B, p. 139]

Baker, John. Merchant, with firm of Baker and Troup, 1785 and 1791; commissioner of Sunbury, 1785; commissioner of Sunbury roads, 1784; married Mrs. Mary Lapina, widow of Capt. Mathias Lapina, October, 1784; died in Liberty Co., June 1, 1792; colonial in the Continental Light Horse and Liberty Co. Militia. [RR III, p. 559; CR XIX, Pt. II, p. 433; Lib A (II), p. 50; Lib B, pp. 458, 576; Gaz June 7, 1792; Gaz June 10, 1784]

Bennett, John. Living in Sunbury, 1773. [Col X-2, p. 983]

Beverly, James. Schoolmaster, 1775. [Wills AA, pp. 208-212]

Bishop, Peter Augustus. Merchant, 1788; died in Sunbury, 1790. [Lib B, p. 279]

Blackstock, John. Merchant, 1791; died in Savannah, May 28, 1797. [Lib B, pp. 387, 461; CM June 6, 1797]

Blamine, George. Merchant, 1764; formerly of Kingston, Jamaica. [Col Bonds O, p. 237]

Carr, Mark. Founder of Sunbury; judge of Georgia Court of Admiralty, 1747; colonel in Oglethorpe's regiment; lived in Sunbury, 1748-67; died on Turtle River, St. Patrick's Parish, 1767. [Wills A, pp. 247-47; CR V, p. 511; CR XXXI, p. 187; Col C-1, p. 368; Lib B, p. 534; Gaz December 9, 1767]

Carr, Thomas. Son of Mark; collector of customs, 1763-64; living in Eschet, Northumberland Co., England, 1771 and 1772. [CR XXVIII, Pt. I, pp. 825-75; Col Bonds O, p. 297; Col Mort. Q, p. 167; Col X-2, p. 648; Col Bonds R, p. 524; Col Mort. P, p. 374]

Carter, Davis. Merchant, 1811; married Phoebe, widow of Thomas Lanchester; died in Sunbury, June 18, 1819. [Lib G, p. 266; CM July 1, 1819]

Chalmers, George. Mariner, 1766; married Hannah, daughter of John Lawsoin. Col S, p. 255]

Clarke, Hugh. Resident of Sunbury, 1765, 1767; packer and inspector, 1767; planter of St. Andrew's Parish, 1771; died 1773; buried with deceased wife and children in Sunbury. [Gaz August 29, 1765; CR XVIII, pp. 797-99; Wills AA, pp. 93-94]

Coddington, Francis. Justice of the peace, 1772; merchant, with firm of Miller and Coddington, 1774; tax assessor for Liberty Co., 1778; wife Claudia, 1778; died in Liberty Co., November 24, 1792. [CR XII, p. 323; Col Bonds Y-2, pp. 424-27; Lib B, p. 288; CR XIX, Pt. II, p. 89; Lib G, p. 211; Lib B, p. 321; Augusta Chronicle, December 8, 1792]

Cole, Allis. Widow, 1786. [Lib A (II), pp. 102-04]

Cole, James Armstrong. Carpenter, 1789. [Lib B, p. 167]

Cookson, John. Culler and inspector of lumber, 1767. [CR XVIII, pp. 797-99]

Cubbedge, John. Planter, 1772. [Col X-1, p. 462]

Darling, Andrew. Merchant, 1764-69, with firm of Andrew Darling & Co. [Darling, Munro, and Kelsall); married Jean, daughter of Kenneth Baillie, Sr., September 13, 1764, near Sunbury. [Gaz March 29, 1764; Lib B, p. 134; Col Bonds R, pp. 547-48; Wills AA, pp. 5-15; Wills A, pp. 190-95; Col C-2, p. 866; Col U, p. 425; Gaz October 25, 1769; Col Bonds Y-1, p. 232; Col DD, p. 138; Gaz September 20, 1764]

Davis, George. Laborer, 1761. [Col C-2, p. 637]

Dickinson, Stephen. Resident of Sunbury, 1765. [Gaz June 20, 1765]

Dickinson, Thomas. Resident of Sunbury, 1769. [Gaz November 7, 1769]

Dixie, [first name unknown]. Tailor, 1765; drowned in Sunbury, 1765, while bathing in the harbor. [Gaz May 9, 1765]

Dollar, John. Captain in Continental Artillery; living in Sunbury, 1787; died near Sunbury, October 9, 1797. [Lib B, p. 16; Gaz October 20, 1797]

Donworth, Peter. Merchant, 1785; married Mrs. Mary Anderson, October 25, 1785; died in Sunbury, 1787. [Lib A (II), p. 32; Lib B, p. 75; Gaz October 27, 1785; Gaz October 18, 1787]

Dryer, Nathan. Doctor, 1804; wife Eliza. [Lib F, p. 27]

Dunbar, John. Merchant, 1764, with firm of Dunbar, Young, and Simpson. [Col Mort. P, p. 374]

Duncan, David. Merchant, 1785. [Lib A (II), p. 1]

Elliott, Grey. Merchant, 1759; died in London, 1787. [Col C-1, p. 372; Col Bonds J, p. 284; Gaz August 16, 1787]

Elliott, John. Died in Sunbury, July 30, 1765. [Gaz August 8, 1765]

Elsworth, Theophilus. Mariner, 1774. [Col X-2, p. 1123]

Fisher, James. Merchant, 1769-70. [Gaz March 14, 1770; Col U, p. 103]

Fraser, Donald. Collector and comptroller of country duties; living in Sunbury, 1775. [Wills, pp. 208-12; LC]

Graves, John. Inspector of tanned leather, 1768; tax assessor for Sunbury, 1773; merchant, with firm of Graves and Pray, 1786 and 1787; wife Elizabeth. [Col Bonds R, pp. 257-58; CR XIX, Pt. I, pp. 70-71; Gaz March 14, 1770; CR XIX, Pt. I, p. 454; Gaz May 11, 1786; Gaz July 19, 1787; Col Bonds Y-2, pp. 361-62]

Goffe, Charles Barnett. Mariner, 1792. [Lib B, p. 461]

Hardy, John. Carpenter, 1775; vintner, 1775; commissioner of roads for Liberty Co. and Sunbury, 1784; commissioner of Sunbury, 1785; living in Sunbury as late as 1787. [Wills AA, pp. 208-12; Col Bonds Y-2, p. 455; Gaz July 10, 1783; RR III, p. 559; Lib A (II), p. 54; CR XIX, Pt. II, p. 433; Lib A (II), p. 170]

Harvey, Alexander. Practitioner of physick and surgery, 1760; married Esther Lawson, daughter of John Lawson, Sr., who married second Adam Alexander. [Lib F, p. 56; Col X-2, p. 1015]

Heart, James. Merchant, 1756. [Col Bonds J, pp. 170-74; Col C-2, p. 628]

Holden, Mrs. Elizabeth. Residing in Sunbury, 1796. [Lib C, p. 106]

Holmes, James. Resident of Sunbury, 1794-1826; commissioner of Sunbury, 1807 and 1809; collector of customs: died in Sunbury, January 15, 1826. [Lib C, p. 219; Lib E, p. 74; Lib G, p. 26; Lib F, pp. 216-17; Savannah Daily Georgian, January 18, 1826]

Holzendorff, Frederick. Saddler, 1763; moved to Newport, 1864. [Col Bonds J, p. 460; Gaz October 27, 1763; Gaz July 26, 1764]

Hornby, George. Merchant, 1788. [Lib B, p. 85]

Hughs, Thomas. Merchant, 1769, with firm of Fisher, Jones, and Hughs; tax collector for Sunbury and St. John's Parish, 1770. [Col U, p. 103; CR XIX, Pt. I, p. 169]

Hunter, Solomon. Carpenter, 1787; married Mrs. Jane Mahan, widow of Stephen Dickinson. [Lib A (II), p. 170]

Irvine, Charles. Son of John Irvine; married Elizabeth Darling, daughter of Andrew Darling, 1787. [Lib B, p. 137; Gaz September 27, 1787]

Irvine, John. Doctor of physic and surgeon, 1765-66: married Ann Elizabeth Baillie, daughter of Kenneth Baillie, Sr., September 1765; died in Savannah, October 15, 1808, aged 66. [Col Bonds R, pp. 548-50; Lib B, p. 135; Wills A, pp. 190-95; CM October 18, 1808]

James, James. Merchant, 1788, with firm of Van Yeveren and James; married Kitty Powell in Liberty Co., 1793. [Lib C, p. 181; Gaz May 23, 1793]

Jervey, David. Culler and inspector of lumber, 1767. [CR XVIII, pp. 797-99]

Jones, Edward. Merchant, 1768-70, with firm of Fisher, Jones and Hughs; tax collector for Sunbury and St. John's Parish, 1768. [CR XIX, Pt. I, p. 107; Col U, p. 103; Gaz March 14, 1770]

Jones, Indigo. Residing in Sunbury, 1771. [Col X-2, p. 785]

Jones, Jones. Justice of the peace, 1772; tax collector, 1773; merchant, 1774; justice of the peace, 1776. [CR XII, p. 323; CR XIX, Pt. I, p. 454; Col DD, p. 136; RR I, p. 143]

Kay, John. Resident of Sunbury, 1786. [Gaz October 19, 1786]

Kell, John. Merchant; tax collector for Liberty Co., 1778; wife Elizabeth, who later married David Rees; died November 27, 1784, in Sunbury. [CR XIX, Pt. II, p. 89; Lib B, p. 76; Gaz December 2, 1784]

Kell, John. Attorney-at-law; married Barbara Harriot McIver, December 12, 1808, near Sunbury; Barbara died in 1811. [CM December 5, 1811; SR December 28, 1808]

Kelsall, Roger. Merchant, 1769-75, first with firm of Kelsall and Spalding and then with firm of Andrew Darling & Co. (Darling, Munro, and Kelsall);

colonel in the Sunbury and Liberty Co. Loyalist Militia during the Revolution. [LC; Gaz June 7, 1769; Col CC, p. 60; CR XII, p. 323; Col X-2, p. 648; Col Bonds Y-2, pp. 424-27; Col DD, p. 138]

Kitchen, James. Collector and comptroller of country duties, 1770. [CR XIX, Pt. I, pp. 145-46]

La Motte, Andrew. Marchant, 1769. [Col Bonds R, p. 338]

Lanchester, Thomas. Merchant; wife Phoebe Rhodes, who later married Davis Carter. [Lib G, p. 268]

Law, Samuel. Commissioner of Sunbury, 1807 and 1809. [Lib F, pp. 216-17; Lib G, p. 26]

Lawson, John. Planter, 1764 and 1768; tailor, 1766 and 1774; tax assessor for Liberty Co., 1778; wife Elizabeth, 1764-74. [Col Bonds O, p. 237; Col S, p. 255; Col U, p. 425; Col X-2, p. 1123; CR XIX, Pt. II, p. 89]

Lawson, John, Jr. Collector of customs, 1782 and 1783. [RR III, p. 188; RR II, p. 436]

Lee, Francis. Comptroller and collector of country duties, 1765-68. [CR XIV, p. 257; Gaz July 18, 1765; CR XIX, Pt. I, p. 72]

Jane, Lee. Widow, 1773. [Lib A (II), p. 161]

Leggett, Abraham. Blacksmith, 1788. [Lib C, p. 181]

Lockerman, Joseph. Planter, 1763. [Col Bonds O, p. 118]

Manley, Peter. Inspector of tanned leather, 1768. [CR XIX, Pt. I, pp. 70-71]

Massie, William. Comptroller, naval officer, and searcher, 1765. [Gaz December 9, 1765]

Maxwell, James. Residing near Sunbury, 1765; died in Midway, 1768. [Col C-2, p. 1011; Gaz November 16, 1768]

McIntosh, Lachlan. Attorney-at-law, 1797. [Lib DD, p. 235]

McIver, Alexander. Merchant, 1780; married Elizabeth, daughter of Simon Munro. [Lib B, p. 258]

MacKay, Patrick. Resident of Sunbury, 1767-70; living on Sapelo Island in 1772, where he resided until death in 1777; wife Isabella. [Lib B, p. 534; Wills AA, p. 289; Col V, p. 5; Col Mort. O, p. 488; Col CC, p. 905; Col Bonds O, p. 64]

MacKenzie, William. Collector and comptroller, 1771. [CR XI, p. 430]

Miller, Samuel. Merchant, 1774, with firm of Miller and Coddington. [Col CC, p. 1081; Col Bonds Y-2, pp. 424-27]

Molich, Jan. Merchant, 1787-97, with firm of Schmidt and Molich; died in Sunbury, January 17, 1819, aged 60 years. [Lib DD, p. 202: Lib B, p. 60; SR January 27, 1819]

Moore, Burgess. Carpenter, 1795. [Lib C, p. 229]

Morecock, Samuel. Packer and inspector, 1770; culler and inspector for lumber, 1770. [CR XIX, Pt. I, pp. 153-55]

Morris, Thomas. Captain of artillery company stationed in Sunbury during the Revolution; died in Matthews, Co., Va., shortly after the Siege of Yorktown. [Gaz February 26, 1784; Thomas Morris File Two, Ga. Dept. of Archives and History; Thomas Morris Rev. War Pension Record, R16555, National Archives]

Munro, Simon. Merchant, 1768-75; first with firm of Darling and Munro, and then with firm of Darling & Co. (Darling, Munro, and Kelsall), and then alone; tax collector for Sunbury and St. John's Parish, 1768; justice of the peace, 1772; wife Elizabeth; Lt. Col. of the Sunbury Loyalist Militia during the Revolution; expelled from Georgia as a loyalist in 1777; refugeed to New Providence, Jamaica, Pensacola, and St. Augustine; returned to Georgia in 1779, but left again in 1782. [LC; CR XIX, Pt. I, p. 37; Col U, pp. 3, 425; Gaz June 7, 1769; CR XII, p. 323; Col Bonds Y-1, p. 232; Col X-2, p. 912; Col DD, p. 138; Lib B, p. 258; Lib F, p. 158]

Murray, John. Resident of Sunbury, 1783. [Gaz July 3, 1783]

Myers, Henry. Bricklayer, 1794-97; wife Mary. [Lib C, pp. 219, 229; Lib DD, p. 235]

Nelms, Samuel. Packer and inspector, 1770: culler and inspector for lumber, 1770; married Elizabeth, daughter of Paynter Dickinson. [Wills A, p. 327; CR XIX, Pt. I, pp. 153-55]

Nichols, Robert. Comptroller and collector of country duties, 1768. [CR XIX, Pt. I, p. 72; Gaz April 13, 1768]

Peacock, William. Mariner, 1764 and 1773; tax assessor for Sunbury and St. John's Parish, 1773. [Col X-1, pp. 71, 204; Col X-2, p. 912; CR XIX, Pt. I, p. 454; Lib A (II), p. 156]

Pettigrew, John. Merchant, 1775; died in Sunbury, 1775. [Wills AA, pp. 208-12; Gaz November 29, 1775]

Poulton, Jeremiah. Mariner, 1769. [Col CC, p. 591]

Pray, John. Merchant, with firm of Graves and Pray and also with firm of Pray and Forester, 1786-87. [Gaz July 19, 1787; Gaz May 11, 1786]

Price, Edward. Saddler, 1787. [Lib B, p. 79]

Rees, David. Collector of the port, 1778; married Elizabeth, widow of John Kell, 1788; commissioner of Sunbury, 1807 and 1809. [RR II, p. 35: Lib B, p. 76; Lib G, p. 26; Lib F, pp. 216-17; Gaz January 17, 1788]

Rhodes, Andrew. Baker, 1811. [Lib G, pp. 266, 268]

Rudulph, Michael. Resident of Sunbury, 1785. [Lib A (II), p. 4]

Rutherford, James. Resident of Sunbury before 1768. [Col X-1, p. 71]

Saltus, Henry. Carpenter, 1762. [Col X-2, p. 1054]

Schmidt, Egidius Henry. Merchant, 1787-95, with firm of Schmidt and Molich; died August 21, 1795; his wife, Christina Dorothy, came to Sunbury in 1788 from Germany and died in Sunbury, January 9, 1812. [Lib B, p. 60; Lib DD, p. 202; Gaz August 27, 1795; CM January 20, 1812]

Screven, Charles O. Minister of the gospel; pastor of the Sunbury Baptist Church; resident of Sunbury, 1816-27. [Lib G, p. 400; Lib H, p. 51; Lib I, pp. 10-11, 214]

Simpson, John. Merchant, 1758-74, first with firm of Young and Simpson and then with firm of Dunbar, Young, and Simpson. [Col CC, p. 47; Col Mort. P, p. 374; Gaz March 29, 1764; Col DD, p. 136]

Smallwood, Matthew. Resident of Sunbury, 1771. [Col X-1, p. 71]

Smith, David. "Gentleman," 1772. [Wills AA, p. 79]

Spalding, James. Merchant, 1771-74, with firm of Kelsall and Spalding. [Col CC, p. 60; Col Bonds Y-2, pp. 424-27]

Somarsall, Stafford. Resident of Sunbury, 1785; died in Sunbury, February 13, 1812. [Lib B, p. 65; SR March 10, 1812]

Stevens, John. Resident of Sunbury, 1807. [Lib F, p. 158]

Stevens, Richard. Tailor, 1771. [Col X-1, p. 98]

Stuart, Allan. Practitioner of physick, 1770-72. [Gaz March 14, 1770; Col X-1, p. 556]

Swinton, William. Merchant, 1763-65, with the firm of Swinton, Forbes, and Co. [Col Bonds O, p. 118; Gaz June 13, 1765; Gaz June 27, 1765]

Troup, George. Merchant, 1791, with firm of Baker and Troup. [Lib B, p. 576]

Van Yeveren, Myndert. Merchant, 1788, with firm of James and Van Yeveren; married Dorothy, widow of Phillip Jacob Schmidt, 1797; died in Sunbury, February 10, 1808. [Lib C, p. 181; CM January 27, 1797; CM February 19, 1808]

Walker, J. Resident of Sunbury, 1786. [Gaz, October 19, 1786]

Wallace, William. Clerk, 1775. [Wills AA, pp. 208-12]

Watts, Charles. Planter and ship carpenter during the Revolution; lieutenant colonel in the Sunbury Loyalist Militia. [LC]

Williams, Abraham. Tavernkeeper, 1775. [Col CC, p. 699]

Williams, Joseph. Tavernkeeper, 1764. [Col Bonds O, p. 237]

Young, Thomas. Merchant, 1758-74, first with the firm of Young and Simpson, and later with the firm of Dunbar, Young, and Simpson; married Mrs. Elizabeth Bosomworth, widow of Adam Bosomworth, October 20, 1765; near Sunbury; tax collector for Sunbury and St. John's Parish, 1768; died in Georgia, November 7, 1808, aged 74. [Col CC, p. 47; Col Mort. P, p. 374; Gaz March 29, 1764; Gaz October 21, 1765; CR XIX, Pt. I, p. 107; Col DD, p. 136; CM November 11, 1808]

FOOTNOTES

Preface

1. Liberty County, Deed Book 111, pp. 595-96. This deed book and all others subsequently mentioned are in the possession of the Clerk of Superior Court, Hinesville, Ga.

2. David T. Agnew, A Short Historical Study of the Earthwork Near Sunbury, in Liberty County, Georgia, submitted to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Office of Planning and Research, Historic Preservation Section, September 2, 1975.

Section I

Chapter 1

3. The Colonial Records of the State of Georgia, edited by Allen Daniel Candler and Lucian Lamar Knight (Atlanta: printed for the State Legislature, 1904-16), Vol. 18, p. 91. Hereinafter referred to as CGR.

4. Ibid., Vol. 6, p. 220.

5. Benjamin Martyne, Secretary for the Trustees of Georgia, to Thomas Carbett, Secretary to the Lords Commissioners for executing the Office of Lord High Admiral, CGR, Vol. 31, p. 187.

6. CGR, op. cit., Vol. 18, p. 91.

7. Ibid., Vol. 6, p. 223.

8. Ibid., Vol. 6, pp. 226, 236, 301, 309, 377; Vol. 11, p. 380.

9. Ibid., Vol. 6, p. 419.

10. Ibid., Vol. 6, pp. 370-72. On May 23, 1751 ("Proceedings of the President and Assistants," Georgia Historical Quarterly, Vol. 36, pp. 51-52), a letter from Captain Mark Carr reached the board, in which he requested the Georgia surveyor to lay out a tract of 500 acres for him. The land had previously been appropriated for Lieutenant Archibald Don, and it lay between the grants to Carr and Evans. Carr claimed to have purchased the 500 acres from Don for 25 guineas. The board refused to comply with Carr's request, on the grounds that it had received no satisfaction for cultivation from Don. John Mullryne seems to have been granted this same 500 acres on December 4, 1753 (CGR, Vol. 6, p. 419).

11. By lease and release dated April 25/26, 1759 (CGR, Vol. 6, Colonial Georgia Conveyance Book C-1, Georgia Department of Archives and History, pp. 368-71), Mark Carr, Esq., of Sunbury in the Province of Georgia sold to Samuel Stevens, planter of South Carolina, for 10 sh/£250,

500 acres in Midway District, bounded north by the lands of William Carr. By lease and release dated the same day (Book C-1, pp. 392-95), William Carr, planter, and Mary Carr, his wife, of North Newport, sold to Samuel Stevens, planter of South Carolina, for 10 sh/£260, 500 acres in Midway District on the head of the North branch of the North Newport River, bounded south by lands of Colonel Mark Carr. These two tracts constitute the 1,000 acres granted to Mark Carr and his son William by the President and Assistants on May 12, 1752 (CGR, p. 372).

12. James Stacy, History of the Midway Congregational Church, Liberty County, Georgia (Newnan, Ga.: S.W. Murray, Printer, 1899), pp. 1-51.

13. Conveyance from John Stevens, planter of Midway, and Mary, his wife, to the Congregational Society settled chiefly on Midway and Newport, April 19, 1756 (Colonial Georgia Conveyance Book C-1, pp. 235-36).

14. On November 4, 1757, James Heart, "formerly" of Georgia, merchant, but "now" of Williamsburg, Va., gave John Gordon and Grey Elliott of Beaufort, S.C., merchants, a power-of-attorney to collect all accounts and demands due him in Georgia and to sell his property in Georgia. In the text of the document, Heart authorized Gordon and Grey "to Enter into and take possession of [his] late dwelling house, store & Lott on Capt. Mark Carr's Bluff known by /No 2/ & to demand and received in [his] name a legal Conveyance thereof..."(Colonial Georgia Bond Book J, Georgia Department of Archives and History, pp. 170-74).

15. Georgia Grant Book A (Georgia Surveyor General Department), p. 429.

16. Liberty County Deed Book A(I), p. 104.

17. Hugh McCall, History of Georgia (Savannah: Seymour and Williams, 1811 and 1816; reprinted in one volume, Atlanta, 1909, p. 177). McCall's statement concerning the Bermuda immigration can be supported in part by the petitions of various individuals before the Governor and Council during 1759. For instance, in March of 1759 (CGR, Vol. 8, p. 8), John Lawson submitted a petition, "setting forth that he was lately come from the Island of Bermuda in Order to settle in this Province and was desirous to obtain a Grant of Land for Cultivation."

18. General Occurrences of the [Midway Congregational] Society, 1754-1756. Original records in possession of the Midway Society, Hinesville, Ga. Hereafter referred to as Midway Records.

19. Ibid.

20. Ibid.

21. CGR, Vol. 18, pp. 202-07.

22. Ibid.

23. Ibid., Vol. 28, Pt. 2, p. 215.

24. Ibid.

25. Ibid., Vol. 18, pp. 408-17.

26. Ibid.

27. Ibid., Vol. 28, Pt. 1, p. 458.

28. Ibid., Vol. 8, pp. 452-53, 458.

29. "Copy of the Answers of James Wright Esqr Governor of Georgia, to the Queries proposed by the Lords of Trade," CGR, Vol. 28, pp. 335-61.

30. CGR, Vol. 8, p. 541.

31. Ibid., Vol. 28, pp. 335-61.

32. Ibid., Vol. 8, p. 671.

33. Ibid., Vol. 28, Pt. 1, p. 649.

34. Letter from James Wright to Edward Segwick, CGR, Vol. 27, p. 75.

35. Ibid., Vol. 8, pp. 722-25.

36. Ibid., Vol. 8, pp. 734-35; Vol. 14, pp. 36-41.

37. Ibid., Vol. 8, pp. 544-45.

38. Ibid., Vol. 38, Pt. 1, pp. 102-36.

39. On June 14, 1764, the Georgia Gazette (published in Savannah) reported a smallpox epidemic in Sunbury. In a letter dated December 18, 1766, from the Rev. John Alexander in Sunbury to the Rev. Daniel Burton, D.D., in the London office of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, Alexander wrote of a terrible epidemic wiping out whole families of Sunbury residents. He further stated that land had been purchased in Florida were a new town was being laid out along the St. Johns River for the survivors of the catastrophe (Records of the Society, on Microfilm at the Georgia Department of Archives and History; hereafter referred to as SPG). In light of presently available evidence, Alexander's statements must be taken as exaggerated fabrications. First, Alexander was seeking a transfer from Sunbury; second, he was called that same year by a fellow clergyman in Savannah a "great deceiver;" third, no newspaper or other contemporary accounts for 1767 report this epidemic. While it is highly possible that such an epidemic could have erupted in Sunbury, the contemplated removal to Florida seems very unlikely.

40. Georgia Gazette, June 2, 1763, p. 6, c. 1.

41. Ibid., July 19, 1764, p. 3, c. 2.

42. "Minutes of the Upper and Commons Houses of Assembly, 1765-70," CGR, 1765-70.

43. CGR, Vol. 15, p. 102.

44. Ibid., Vol. 18, pp. 505-8; Vol. 15, p. 161.

45. Ibid., Vol. 15, pp. 158, 161.

46. "Answers to the Heads of Inquiry Relative to the Present State and Condition of the Province of Georgia in Obedience to his Majestys Commands, Signified by the Earl of Darmouth His Majestys Principal Secretary of State and received the Fourteenth of September 1773," CGR, Vol. 38, Pt. 1, pp. 102-3. Because Sunbury had "become a place of considerable Trade," and was "consequently Resorted to by a Number of Shippings," a number of merchants residing in the town requested the Commons House to appropriate money for the construction of "a proper Beacon or Land Mark to direct Vessels coming into the said port of Sunbury ... upon the Island of Saint Catherines belonging to Button Gwinnett Esquire...." (CGR, Vol. 15, p. 502).

47. Ibid.

48. Midway Records.

49. Ibid.

50. Ibid.

51. SPG.

52. Ibid.

53. Midway Records.

54. SPG.

55. "Petition from the Church Wardens and Vestry of the Anglican Church in Sunbury to the Honorable James Habersham, August 6, 1771," CGR, Vol. 12, p. 20.

56. SPG.

57. William Bartram, Travels through North and South Carolina, Georgia, East and West Florida (Philadelphia: James and Johnson, 1791), pp. 5-10. The center paragraph comes from the actual rough diary of William Bartram, rather than from his more formally written Travels....

Chapter 2

58. Depositions of James Kitching and Isaac Antrobus, CGR, Vol. 38, Pt. 1, pp. 483-92; Vol. 12, pp. 411-13.

59. Allen D. Candler (compiler), The Revolutionary Records of the State of Georgia, 3 vols. (Atlanta: The Franklin Turner Company, 1908), Vol. 1, pp. 91-92; hereafter referred to as RRG. Also: Gordon B. Smith, The

Georgia National Guard: Service in the Revolution, 1775-1783 (unpublished manuscript, Savannah, 1976).

60. William James Morgan, ed., Naval Documents of the American Revolution, 6 vols. (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1964-1973), Vol. 5, pp. 197, 367.

61. RRG, Vol. 1, p. 125.

62. Ibid., p. 130.

63. Collections of the Georgia Historical Society, Vol. 4, p. 60.

64. Peter Force, ed., American Archives, Fifth Series (Washington, D.C.: 1848), Vol. 1, p. 1567; hereafter referred to as American Archives.

65. RRG, Vol. 1, pp. 169, 197.

66. Morgan, Naval Documents, Vol. 6, pp. 134-35.

67. William Moultrie, Memoirs of the American Revolution (New York: David Longworth, 1802; reprinted by Arno Press, Inc.), Vol. 1, p. 185. Also: Charles Francis Jenkins, Button Gwinnett (Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday and Page, 1926; reprinted by the Reprint Company, Publishers, 1974), pp. 96-97.

68. James A. LeConte, History of Liberty County, Georgia (unpublished manuscript), pp. 73-74.

69. RRG, Vol. 1, p. 205.

70. American Archives, Vol. 3 (published 1853), pp. 1532-33.

71. RRG, Vol. 2, p. 65. Also: receipt of J. Graves, December 28, 1776, Telamon Cuyler Collection, Special Collections, Univ. of Ga. Library, Athens.

72. Jenkins, Button Gwinnett, pp. 141-49.

73. "Order Book of Samuel Elbert," Collections of the Georgia Historical Society, Vol. 5, Pt. 2, pp. 14-21.

74. Ibid., pp. 37, 48-49. In a memorandum written by the deposed Governor James Wright on August 11, 1777 (CGR, Vol. 38, Pt. 2, pp. 124-26), he explained, "that an Expedition was fitted out from Sunbury agt East Florida, of 3 Row Galleys, 2 armed Sloops and some Transports carrying in the whole 20 Pieces of Cannon from 12 to 24 Pounders besides Swivels &c &c That Major Prevost with the Regulars, and Brown with some Rangers and Indians, in all about 200, Passed St. Johns River, and on the 17th fell in with and defeated Col. Baker and his party with 180 Horse. This was intended as an advanced Guard or Foraging Party to the Galleys &c. That Prevost had brought in 10 Prisoners & 14 Scalps. That the Galleys getting a Ground in Amelia Narrows, and hearing of Bakers Defeat, they Landed their Men near my Brothers on St. Marys River & from whence they retreated having first destroyed, and laid waste every thing where they went."

75. Collections of the Georgia Historical Society, Vol. 5, Pt. 2, pp. 17-18, 21.

76. Ibid., p. 76.

77. RRG, Vol. 2, pp. 65, 72-73.

78. Moultrie, Memoirs, Vol. 2, pp. 380-81.

79. Ibid., Vol. 1, p. 237; also "Letters of Joseph Clay," Collections of the Georgia Historical Society, Vol. 8, pp. 93-94.

80. RRG, Vol. 2, p. 91.

Chapter 3

81. The Pennsylvania Gazette (published in Philadelphia), February 3, 1779, pp. 1-2. This excellent account of the British incursion into Georgia during November of 1778, which includes copies of several important letters written during the incursion, was actually reprinted from a Savannah newspaper of December 3 and a Charleston, S.C., newspaper of December 9. The author derived his estimate of the specific number of British troops involved in the incusion from the South Carolina and American General Gazette, Vol. 21, #1039, December 3, 1778, p. 3, c. 2. The most detailed account yet found on the British invasion of Sunbury was written by an officer in Fuser's troops, Major Patrick Murray. Murray's memoirs were published as Appendix II of Lewis Butler's Annals of the King's Royal Rifle Corps (London, 1913-32), in five volumes, Vol. I, p. 306. Hereafter referred to as Murray's Memoirs.

82. Midway Records. When reports of the approaching British troops reached St. John's Parish, Benjamin Baker moved his family and their belongings from the family residence into a nearby wood. On November 26, 1778, British troops captured Baker, and he was taken before Colonel Prevost, who, according to Baker's account, expressed much compassion for his wife "with a child not six weeks old," who had lain out in the woods for several days in the cold weather. Baker was paroled and ordered to move his family back into their home; by an expressed order of Colonel Prevost, neither the Baker family nor their possessions were to be disturbed, and they were not.

83. Ibid.

84. Ibid.

85. The Connecticut Courier, January 26, 1779, #79, p. 3, c. 1. The South Carolina and American General Gazette, Vol. 21, #1038, November 26, 1778, p. 3, c. 1. The Pennsylvania Gazette, February 3, 1779, #2538, p. 1, c. 1.

86. John White to General Howe, November 21, 1778, Papers of the Continental Congress, National Archives Microfilm Publications #247, Roll 178, Item 160, p. 503.

87. Midway Records. Henry Hart Jones, "Unpublished Reminiscences of the Olden Time," The Macon [Georgia] Telegraph & Messenger, March 20, 1874.

88. The Pennsylvania Gazette, February 3, 1779.

89. Ibid.

90. Jones, The Macon Telegraph.

91. The Pennsylvania Gazette, February 3, 1779. Also: Murray's Memoirs, p. 307.

92. Charles C. Jones, Jr., Dead Towns of Georgia (Savannah: Morning News Steam Printing House, 1878), p. 189.

93. The Pennsylvania Gazette, February 3, 1779.

94. Ibid.

95. Ibid.

96. Ibid.

97. The South Carolina and American General Gazette [Charleston, S.C.], November 26, 1778.

98. Ibid., December 10, 1778. Governor Rawlons Lowndes of South Carolina quarreled with the figures listed in the newspapers, claiming that they were "much exaggerated." However, he did not attempt to give an alternate estimate. (Governor Lowndes to Henry Laurens, December 24, 1778, South Carolina Historical Society, Papers of Henry Laurens, copybook of letters to him, 1777-85, #16.

99. In the Midway Records, Benjamin Baker mentioned that on December 3, "some Georgia Companies arrived and encamped in the afternoon at the place where the Meeting House had stood." General Howe ordered these companies to Midway on December 1 (Grimke, "Order Book of John Faucheraud Grimke, August 1778 to May 1780," The South Carolina Historical Magazine, Vol. 13, edited by Mabel Webber, p. 212). General Howe first issued orders from Sunbury on December 6 (Grimke, p. 209).

100. Grimke, p. 209-11. Also: Grimke, Vol. 14, p. 247.

101. Moultrie, Vol. I, p. 247.

102. Robert Howe to Benjamin Lincoln, December 14, 1778, Benjamin Lincoln Papers, Massachusetts Historical Society, Boston, Mass.

103. Grimke, Vol. 14, pp. 46-47.

104. Ibid.

105. Ibid., p. 51.

106. Colonel Campbell stated that "the pursuit of Mr. Howe's army was so rapid that in 5 days we drove him across the Savannah River at the 2 sisters [just north of Ebenezer], out of the Province of Georgia; in so much, that excepting 200 men at Sunbury whose retreat was effectually cut off by this movement. There was not a Rebel to show his face 100 miles above the Savannah" (Campbell to Earl of Carlisle, January 18, 1779, Carlisle Manuscripts at Castle Howard, England. Copied in B.F. Stevens' Facsimiles, #113).

107. "Proceedings of a General Court Martial held at Philadelphia, Pa. ... for the trial of Major General Howe, December 7, 1781," Collections of the New York Historical Society (New York: printed for the Society, 1879), pp. 298. Hereafter referred to as Collections of NYHS.

108. Joseph Lane to General Howe, Emmet Collection, New York Public Library, #6716.

109. Moultrie, Vol. 1, p. 259.

110. Collections of NYHS, p. 299.

111. Ibid.

112. Archibald Campbell, Journal of An Expedition Against the Rebels of Georgia in North America Under the Orders of Archibald Campbell Esquire Lieut. Colo. of His Majesty's 71st Regiment 1778 (typescript copy of the manuscript in the Georgia State Library; original in possession of the John Campbell family, Isle of Canna, Scotland), p. 65. Hereafter referred to as the Campbell Journal.

113. Ibid., p. 66.

114. General Augustin Prevost in Savannah to Sir Henry Clinton, general and commander-in-chief of all his Majesty's troops in North America, January 19, 1779. Historical Manuscripts Commission of Great Britain; Microcopy in Charlton Papers in South Carolina Archives, Columbia, S.C.; photocopy in Historic Preservation Section files. Also: Murray's Memoirs, p. 310.

115. Ibid.

116. Joseph Lane to Benjamin Lincoln, February 22, 1779; original in the Emmet Collection, #6717, New York Public Library. Although the information concerning the exact placement of the British forces around the Sunbury fort is not clearly explained in Lane's letter, the present writer feels that other contemporary documents, as well as local legends, indicate that these suppositions are correct. Lincoln took General Howe's place as commander of the Southern Department.

117. Ibid. The crews in the sloop, numbering 70 men and officers, were captured by a tender of the Vigilant and brought to Savannah on January 14, 1779 (Captain Hyde Parker to Phillip Stephens, January 14-15, 1779, Public Records Office, Admiralty Captains' Letters P, Vol. 29; copied in B.F. Stevens' Facsimiles, #1246). Captain Francis Saltus escaped from

Fort Morris about 20 minutes before the British entered and eventually made his way to Charleston, S.C. In his report to the South Carolina and American Gazette, published January 28, 1779. Captain Saltus stated that "he got on board a vessel with sundry other persons, and with two of the gallies, proceeded down to St. Catherine's Inlet, where they spiked up the cannon on board and then set fire to the gallies which were totally destroyed;..." How Captain Saltus escaped capture by the British tender after the sloop again set sail from St. Catherines remains a mystery.

118. Prevost to Clinton, January 19, 1779. The term "gate" may refer to a gate leading to the immediate area surrounding Fort Morris or to a gate through an unused outer defense works for the town of Sunbury.

119. Lane to Lincoln, February 22, 1779. General Prevost, in his letter of January 19, 1779, to Sir Henry Clinton, states the number captured in the fall of Sunbury fort as 212. Lane's figure should certainly be the more accurate of the two reported, as it was Lane who filed a roster of the captured prisoners and had reason to enumerate them more exactly for that purpose.

120. Prevost to Clinton, January 19, 1779. In a letter dated January 21 of that year, from Lt. Col. Archibald Campbell in Savannah to Maj. Gen. Prevost and Commodore Hyde Parker in Savannah, Campbell mentions that Lt. Col. Allen in Sunbury was "commanding the British at that Station." Murray's Memoirs (p. 311) documents that Prevost placed him in command of the entire Sunbury area, while MacIntosh was placed in command of only the fort. According to Campbell, Prevost arrived in Savannah on January 14, 1779, at which time he immediately received command of the entire British army in Georgia, his rank being superior to that of Campbell [Campbell Journal, p. 66].

## Chapter 4

121. Campbell Journal, p. 77.

122. Ibid., p. 123.

123. McCall, p. 421.

124. Charles C. Jones, Jr., 2 vols., History of Georgia (Boston: Houghton, Mifflin and Company, 1883), Vol. 2, p. 362.

125. Information from original documents of the Sheftall family in possession of Mrs. Marion Abrahams Levy, Savannah. Photocpies in possession of John M. Sheftall, Macon.

126. Samuel Elbert to Mordecai Sheftall, June 24, 1779, in possession of Mrs. Marion Abrahams Levy, Savannah. Photocopy in possession of John M. Sheftall, Macon.

127. George Walton in Sunbury to General Benjamin Lincoln, June 29, 1779. Original in possession of the Maine Historical Society.

128. Ibid.

129. Kenneth Coleman, The American Revolution in Georgia 1763-1789 (Athens, Ga.: University of Georgia Press, 1958), pp. 126-29.

130. Maj. Gen. Augustin Prevost to Lord George Germain, commanding the British troops in Georgia, November 1, 1779. British Public Records Office, America & West Indies, Vol. 155, p. 351. Copied in the London Gazette, #12042, December 21-25, 1779, and also in B.F. Stevens' Facsimiles, #2020.

131. Ibid.

132. Diary of Benjamin Lincoln, September 3, 1779 - October 19, 1779. Manuscript Department of the Library of Congress.

133. Affidavit of Sheftall Sheftall, dated October 15, 1832, contained in the Revolutionary Pension Records (S-31959) of Sheftall Sheftall, in the National Archives. Hereafter referred to as "Sheftall Pension Record."

134. George Walton at Belfast to Maj. Gen. Benjamin Lincoln, September 29, 1779. Original in possession of Maine Historical Society.

135. Augustine Prevost to Benjamin Lincoln, September 11, 1779. Original in C.C. Jones' Dead Towns of Georgia, Special Collections, University of Georgia Library.

136. George Walton in Sunbury to Maj. Gen. Benjamin Lincoln, October 13, 1779. Original in possession of Maine Historical Society.

137. "Sheftall Pension Record."

138. Captain Thomas Morris in St. Croix to Henry Laurens, president of the Continental Congress, March 30, 1780. "Papers of the Continental Congress," National Archives Microfilm #247, Roll 99, Vol. 78, Pt. 16, p. 21.

139. Captain Thomas Morris to George Walton, November 18, 1779. Original in possession of New York Historical Society.

140. Original documents on the Sheftall family are in possession of Mrs. Marion Abrahams Levy. Photocopies are in possession of John M. Sheftall. Memorials of William Watson, Thomas Dickinson, and John Martin, "Papers of the Continental Congress, National Archives Microfilm, #247, Roll 52, Item 41, Vol. 10, p. 448.

141. Loyalist Claims for Roger Kelsall, James Kitching, Mathias Lapina, Simon Munro, Simon Patterson, and Charles Watts, on Microfilm in Georgia Department of Archives and History. Originals in the British Public Records Office. Hereafter, all references to the Loyalist claims will be cited as Loyalist Claims and followed by the name of the memorialist.

142. Petition and papers of Mathias Lapina deposited in the Georgia Historical Society, "Georgia (Colony), Governor and Council Papers," Folder 1, File 277.

143. Ibid.

144. "Minutes of the Governor and Council," September 20, 1780, Collections of the Georgia Historical Society, Vol. X, pp. 127-28.

145. Loyalist Claims, Roger Kelsall, Simon Munro, Simon Patterson, and Charles Watts.

146. Foot soldiers are mentioned as being posted in Sunbury on November 23, 1779, in the "Minutes of the Governor and Council," Collections of the Georgia Historical Society, Vol. X, p. 67.

147. Loyalist Claims, Roger Kelsall, Simon Munro, and Charles Watts.

148. Governor Wright to Brig. Gen. Paterson, February 14, 1780, CGR, Vol. 38, Pt. 2, pp. 277-81. Governor Wright to Lord George Germain, His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State, July 19, 1780, CGR, Vol. 38, Pt. 2, p. 377.

149. Governor Wright to Lord George Germain, October 27, 1780; Collections of the Georgia Historical Society, Vol. 3, pp. 321-22.

150. McCall, p. 529.

151. Ibid., p. 531.

152. Loyalist Claims, Roger Kelsall and Simon Paterson.

153. LeConte, p. 66.

## Chapter 5

154. Jones, Dead Towns, pp. 205-06.

155. RRG, Vol. 2, p. 434. A copy of an act passed by the Executive Council of Georgia on January 31, 1783, was ordered to be served to "the military Commanding Officer of the Garrison, the Commissary of Prisoners, and the Collector for the Port of Sunbury in the County of Liberty...."

156. Liberty County Deed Book DD, pp. 55, 181.

157. Marbury and Crawford, Digest of the Laws of the State of Georgia (Savannah: Seymour, Woolhopter, and Stebbins, 1802), pp. 128-29.

158. Jones, Dead Towns, p. 212. The regulatory act of 1791 was amended once in 1804. The amendment changed the date of the commissioners' election

from the first Monday in January to the first Monday in August. It further directed the town commissioners to act as ex-officio justices of the peace within the town limits [Clayton, Compilation of the Laws of the Laws of the State of Georgia (Augusta: Adams & Duyckinck, 1813), pp. 213-14)].

159. Extract from the "Minutes of the Executive Council," Gazette of the State of Georgia, May 27, 1784, p. 1, c. 2.

160. Memorial to John Lawson and David Rees from "Sundry Ladies inhabitants of Sunbury," Telamon Cuyler Collection, Special Collections, University of Georgia Library. The petitioners were "Mary Baker, Elizabeth Peacock, M.P. McIntosh, S.P. Maxwell, P. Lockerman, Ann Oswald, E. Rees, Elizabeth Lawson, Esther Dunwody, Mary Lawson, C. Coddington, Hannah Peacock, D. Schmidt, Esther Alexander, Mary Ann Ladson, S.D. Schmidt, C. Schmidt, F. Schmidt, Jane Dollar, M. Hardy, Jane Mulryne, and Elizabeth Pomeray."

161. Marbury and Crawford, p. 567. Subsequent to the initial appointment by the Georgia Legislature of commissioners for the Sunbury Academy, various other Sunbury residents held that distinctive position. The commissioners in 1791 were James Dunwody, James Powell, Francis Coddington, Abiel Holmes, and John Elliott [Liberty County Deed Book B, p. 470]. On October 20, 1810, James Holmes, a commissioner at that time, requested the Georgia governor to appoint John Dunwody in his stead [letter in Telamon Cuyler Collection, Special Collections, University of Georgia Library].

162. Gazette of the State of Georgia, October 2, 1788, p. 3, c. 1.

163. Ibid.

164. Ibid., p. 2, c. 1.

165. Ibid.

166. Jones, Dead Towns, pp. 213-15.

167. Petition from the Congregational Society of Sunbury to Governor Edward Telfair, Telamon Cuyler Collection, Special Collections, University of Georgia Library. The petitioners were "Reuben Hitchcock, Minister of the Congregation; F. Coddington, David Rees, Jas. Powell, J. Lawson, Junr., Selectmen; Elkanah Doolittle, Clerk; E. Henry Schmidt, P. Augustin Bishop, J. Lawson Senr, J. Dunwody, Jno Baker, Stafford Somersall, John Blackstock, Ad: Alexander, John Graves, and John Bighlheimmer." The charter of incorporation for the Congregational Society, dated March 20, 1790, is recorded in Liberty County Deed Book G, pp. 357-58.

168. Midway Church called the Rev. Hitchcock, minister of the Congregational Church at Sunbury, on July 11, 1791, to preach for them on every third Sabbath. According to the Records of the Midway Congregational Church, the Rev. Hitchcock agreed to the proposal and began to preach at Midway on July 31, 1791.

169. Records of the Midway Congregational Church: "April 29, 1810. The following persons, having been rec'd in Sunbury as members in communion by the Revd Mr. McWhir, requested to be considered as members of this church untill that in Sunbury become organized, Viz. Mr. Jedh Fields, Mrs. Ann Maxwell, Mrs. Arnette Ariens, Miss Betsey Alexander, Miss Jane Irvine, and Mr. R.B. Law."

170. Colonial Georgia Bond Book DDD, Georgia Department of Archives and History, pp. 277-80.

171. In the unpublished Recollections of John Stevens, deposited in Midway Museum, Midway, Ga., Stevens spoke of the ordination of the Rev. Jesse H. Campbell in the Sunbury Baptist Church on December 26, 1830.

172. The most complete history of the Indian incursions against Liberty County is contained in LeConte's unpublished History of Liberty County Georgia, pp. 80-95.

Chapter 6

173. E. Merton Coulter, A Short History of Georgia (Chapel Hill, N.C.: The University of North Carolina Press, 1933), pp. 193-94.

174. The Secretary of War to Alexander Macomb, January 26, 1808, in the "Buell Collection of Historical Documents Relating to the Corps of Engineers, 1801-9," National Archives Microfilm Publications #417, Roll 1, Item #136.

175. Alexander Macomb to the Secretary of War, November 1, 1808, "Buell Collection...," Item #184.

176. Communication to Congress on January 6, 1809, "being a statement of the works of defence and of their progress toward completion," American State Papers, Class 5, Vol. 1, pp. 236-37.

177. Joseph G. Swift to William McRee, July 24, 1812, "Buell Collection...."

178. William McRee to Joseph G. Swift, August 16, 1812, "Buell Collection...," Item #344. In this letter, McRee mentioned that the Sunbury inhabitants were erecting two batteries. The present writer has been unable to find any subsequent reference to these batteries, and he must therefore assume one of two things: Either the works were actually never built, or they were of a relatively insignificant nature and considered of no importance in the overall need for defending the town.

179. Isidore Stouff to Georgia Governor John Clark, January 19, 1821, Telamon Cuyler Collection. Stouff requested the governor in this letter to secure for him the position of civil engineer of the state. In order to enhance his qualifications, Stouff mentioned his previous employment by General Swift. Additionally, Stouff quoted a letter of appreciation from Swift, written August 31, 1812, part of which is quoted in the text.

180. Thomas Pinckney to Joseph G. Swift, November 28, 1812, "Joseph Gardner Swift Papers," U.S. Military Academy Library, West Point, N.Y. In spite of Pinckney's decision not to defend the Sunbury harbor, he did not totally overlook the town's need for protection. On July 28, 1812, he ordered an examination of the number and state of the ordnance pieces reported to be in Sunbury. Subsequent references to the Sunbury ordnance would seem to indicate that Pinckney's report was wrong -- there was no ordnance in the town in 1812. What pieces had been used in Fort Morris during the Revolution were undoubtedly removed by the British when they evacuated the town. Pinckney to the Secretary of War, July 28, 1812, "Letters to the Secretary of War, Registered Series," National Archives Microfilm Publications #221, Roll 47, #196.]

181. Pinckney to the Secretary of War, July 28, 1812 [see above].

182. Recollections of John Stevens, p. 51.

183. Ibid., pp. 51-53.

184. Ibid., pp. 53-54.

185. Ibid., pp. 56-57.

186. Jesse H. Campbell, "Reminiscences of the War of 1812," Macon Telegraph and Messenger, July 4, 1873.

187. Governor D.B. Mitchell to John McIntosh, March 8, 1813, Georgia Governor's Letter Book, 1809-14, Georgia Department of Archives and History, pp. 94-95. Governor D.B. Mitchell to John McIntosh, June 13, 1813, Georgia Governor's Letter Book, 1809-14, pp. 108-12.

188. Ibid., Mitchell to McIntosh, June 13, 1813.

189. Recollections of John Stevens, pp. 57-58.

190. Thomas Pinckney to Colonel Jack, October 25, 1813, Letterbook of Major-General Thomas Pinckney, October 15, 1813-May 11, 1814, South Carolina Historical Society, Charleston, S.C. Pinckney mentioned in this letter to Colonel Jack that he had received Jack's request to remove Captain Warley's detachment from Sunbury. Pinckney states: "I had only selected the post of Sunbury, because I imagined it would be healthy during the summer, & might be convenient in other respects; but I have no objection to their removal, whenever you may judge most advantageous to the service...."

191. Records concerning the detachment of troops sent to Sunbury under Major Bowling come from the following sources: Edward Harden correspondence contained in File Two, Georgia Department of Archives and History; William Byne to Governor Peter Early, March 10, 1814, File Two for William Byne, Georgia Department of Archives and History; letter from Governor Early to Robert Bowling, dated April 6, 1814, Georgia Governor's Letter Book, 1809-14, pp. 224-25; and "Bill of Jeremiah Miller for transportation," Georgia Military Affairs, Vol. 4, 1814-19,

typescript prepared by Georgia Department of Archives and History, 1940, p. 146.

192. Ibid.

193. The list of this citizens' organization, dated November 17, 1812, is preserved in Receipts for Payments of Executive Warrants, November 1812 - March 1817, #10, Georgia Department of Archives and History. The members of the committee were John Bacon, John A. Cuthbert, William Fleming, John Stephens, and John Winn.

194. Recollections of John Stevens, p. 58.

195. John B. Mallard, A Short Account of the Midway Congregational Church (Savannah, 1840).

196. Ibid.

197. Letters from the Adjutant General's Office of the Southern Division, March 29, 1813 - Feb. 27, 1815, in the National Archives, Vol. 679, Records Group 98, Entry #33, p. 164.

198. Ibid., pp. 182-84.

199. Ibid., p. 205.

200. Governor Peter Early to Thomas Pinckney, October 27, 1814, Georgia Governor's Letter Book, 1814-21, in the Georgia Department of Archives and History, p. 45.

201. Ibid., pp. 47-48.

202. Recollections of John Stevens, p. 57. Also: Mallard, A Short Account....

203. Campbell.

204. Letters from the Adjutant General's Office of the Southern Division, pp. 227-28.

205. Recollections of John Stevens, p. 57.

206. Journal of the House of Representatives for 1814, Milledgeville, Wednesday, November 2, 1814. Georgia Department of Archives and History.

207. Journal of the Senate for 1814, Milledgeville, Tuesday, November 1, 1814. Georgia Department of Archives and History.

208. John Pray, etal., to Governor Early, January 2, 1815. Telamon Cuyler Collection.

209. Daniel Stewart to Governor Early, January 10, 1815. Telamon Cuyler Collection.

210. "Account of the Attack on St. Marys," Letterbook of Letters Received by George Cockburn, 1812-15, George Cockburn Papers, in the Library of Congress, Manuscript Department, Vol. 38, pp. 482-91, 510-12.

211. Stephen F. Miller, ed., Memoir of General David Blackshear (Philadelphia: J.B. Lippincott & Co., 1858), p. 459.

212. The plan of Sunbury harbor, drawn by James Gadsen in 1814, provides the only known evidence indicating that the name of the fort built near Sunbury in 1814-15 was "Fort Defiance." The fort is labeled as "Defiance" on Gadsen's map, but whether the name was widely used or not has not been determined.

213. Joseph G. Swift to Lieutenant James Gadsen, March 8, 1815, "Buell Collection...," Item #545.

214. James Gadsen to Joseph G. Swift, June 1, 1815, "Buell Collection...," Item #559.

215. Corps of Engineer Reports, July 3, 1812 - Oct. 4, 1823, deposited in the National Archives, Records of the War Department, Records Group 77, Series #221, pp. 108-9.

Chapter 7

216. Jones, Dead Towns, p. 221.

217. A map of Liberty County, drawn by John W. Stacy, clearly shows the route of two railroad lines passing through the county. The date, 1829, which is ascribed to the map, must be considered in error, for no railroads existed in Liberty County at that time. This map is printed in the History of the Midway Congregational Church, p. 288.

218. An excellent description of the 1824 hurricane is contained in the Recollections of John Stevens, pp. 61-66.

219. Jones, Dead Towns, p. 217.

220. Ibid., pp. 220-21.

221. Ibid., p. 218.

222. Paul McIlvaine, The Dead Towns of Sunbury, Ga., and Dorchester, S.C., 3rd ed. (Asheville, N.C.: Groves Printing Co., 1976), p. 58. Also: George White, Historical Collections of Georgia (New York, 1855), p. 514.

223. William Hughes, Sr., to Joseph E. Brown, February 10, 1861, Telamon Cuyler Collection.

224. Mrs. Mary Jones to Charles C. Jones, Jr., June 18, 1861, in The Children of Pride: A True Story of Georgia and the Civil War, p. 698.

225. In Jones' Dead Towns, pp. 182-83, he makes the following statement concerning the cannon in the old Sunbury fort: "Two iron cannon are now lying half buried in the loose soil of the parade, and a third will be found in the old field about midway between the fort and the site of the town. During the recent war between the States, two 6-pounder guns were removed from this fort and carried to Riceboro. No use, however, was made of them. Two more, of similar calibre, of iron, and very heavily reinforced at the breech, were taken by Captain C.A.L. Lamar, -- whose company was then stationed at Sunbury, -- and temporarily mounted on the bluff to serve as signal guns. Despite their age and the exposure to which they had so long been subjected, these pieces were in such excellent condition that they attracted the notice of the Ordnance department, and were soon transported to Savannah. There they were cleaned, mounted upon siege carriages, and assigned to Fort Bartow, where they remained, constituting a part of the armament of that work, until upon the evacuation of Savannah and its dependent forts by the Confederate forces in December, 1864, they passed into the hands of the Federal army." It is the opinion of the present writer that the three guns visible in Sunbury in the late 19th Century (at the time of Jones' visit there) actually dated from the time of the War Between the States, rather than from an earlier era. Also, it seems reasonable to assume that the two guns removed from the fort and sent to Riceboro during the War Between the States were the same two guns that later were used in Fort Bartow. The Liberty Independent Troop moved from Sunbury to Riceboro in November of 1861, and as they were the last Confederate soldiers in Sunbury at the time, they probably took the two old guns with them. From Riceboro, the cannon could have been transported to Savannah and Fort Bartow.

226. W.A. Fleming, "History of the Liberty Independent Troop"(unpublished manuscript, 1896), pp. 16, 20.

227. Bird and Paul Yarbrough, Taylor's Creek (Pearson, Ga.: Atkinson County Citizen Press, 1963), p. 38.

228. Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies (Government Printing Office, 1893), Series 1, Vol. 44, p. 385; and, J.R. Morgan, "An Account of the Burning of Sunbury Baptist Church," Liberty County Herald, April 30, 1925.

229. Morgan.

230. Jones, Dead Towns, pp. 221-22.

## Section II

### Chapter 1

231. Gordon B. Smith of Savannah to David M. Sherman, April 24, 1976, in files of Historic Preservation Section, Atlanta.

232. Will of Patrick MacKay, proved February 13, 1777, Colonial Georgia Will Book AA, Georgia Department of Archives and History, pp. 289-300.

234. John McIntosh to General Benjamin Lincoln, February 12, 1779, Henry E. Huntington Library, San Marion, California.

235. Loyalist Claims, Thomas Young. These five lots owned by Young were: 11, 37, 38, 63, 93.

236. Charles C. Jones, Jr., in his Dead Towns, first prints the incorrect supposition that Fort Defiance dated from the Revolution.

Chapter 2

237. Liberty County Deed Book A(I), pp. 105-8. The town of Sunbury had three squares: King, Meeting, and Church. The town cemetery was located in Church Square, along with the Anglican church. However, various graves are scattered throughout the area of the town, indicating that certain families chose to bury their members in home gardens or side yards.

238. The information on the history of the C.C. Jones Sunbury plat comes from a letter written by Jones to Dr. Thomas A. Emmet on March 31, 1876, in the Emmet Collection, New York Public Library.

239. Jones, Dead Towns, opposite p. 141.

240. Colonial Conveyance Book U, pp. 150-51. Georgia Colonial Bond Book O, p. 89.

241. Conveyance from Mark Carr and the Commissioners of Sunbury to Patrick MacKay, lease and release, April 4/5, 1767, Liberty County Deed Book B, pp. 534-41.

242. Although the actual deed was never recorded, the information concerning its content is preserved in the conveyance from Patrick MacKay to Helen Gordon and Alexander Duff, lease and release, December 22/23, 1768, Colonial Georgia Conveyance Book V, pp. 5-12.

243. Ibid. No actual mention is made of a resurvey of the residue of Carr's grant, but MacKay states in his deed to Gordon and Duff that Carr sold him all of the residue and that he (MacKay) sold Gordon and Duff only 100 acres. Subsequent deed references indicate that this 100 acres consisted of 40 acres lying north of the town and 60 acres lying south of the town. Since the exact acreage of many colonial grants fluctuated considerably in the years following an initial survey, a difference of 100 acres in the area of Carr's grant appears quite normal.

244. Ibid. Helen Gordon's deceased husband, John, has been traditionally identified as a former Georgia resident and co-partner of Sunbury trustee Grey Elliott. Alexander Duff and Lacklan Duff, the executors for Helen Gordon's estate, appointed Alexander Inglis of Savannah as their attorney on September 18, 1772, to sell their town lots in Sunbury [Colonial Georgia Bond Book Y-1, pp. 94-95]. Whether or not Inglis followed through with his duties is not known. After the Revolution, the

196 Sunbury lots sold to Gordon and Duff appear to have been owned by Henry Myers. But although Myers is recorded as selling some of these lots, no subsequent deed records exist on a great many of them.

245. Ibid. The Georgia President and Assistants originally granted this 500-acre tract to John Mullryne on December 4, 1753, but the King regranted the land on July 4, 1758 [CGR, Vol. 6, p. 419; Colonial Georgia Grant Book B, p. 42].

246. Ibid. The information pertaining to Carr's sale of the 500 acres to Patrick MacKay, as well as the information on Mullryne's sale of the property to Carr, is recorded in the deed from MacKay to Gordon and Duff.

247. Patrick MacKay is recorded as owning the Mullryne tract (or rather the land "adjoining the said town [Sunbury] to the Southward") in a mortgage dated May 27/28, 1770, from MacKay to Alexander Inglis, Nathaniel Hall, Noble Jones, James Read, and James Mossman [Colonial Georgia Mortgage Book Q, pp. 488-92].

248. Conveyance from Jones Jones, sheriff of Liberty County, to William Milligan, February 6, 1798, Liberty County Deed Book F, pp. 39-40.

249. This information is recorded in the conveyance from the estate of Thomas Young to the Rev. Charles O. Screven, January 28, 1817, Liberty County Deed Book H, pp. 51-52.

250. Ibid.

251. Conveyance from Thomas Carr to Roger Kelsall, lease and release, September 25/26, 1772, Colonial Georgia Conveyance Book X-2, pp. 648-51. The President and Assistants originally granted this 500-acre tract to Thomas Carr on August 20, 1748, but the King regranted the land on April 5, 1757 [CGR, Vol. 6, p. 220; Colonial Georgia Grant Book A, p. 431].

252. Ibid.

253. Loyalist Claims, Roger Kelsall.

254. Records of the Sales of Confiscated Estates for the County of Liberty, June 19, 1782, original deposited in the Georgia Department of Archives and History. Also, conveyance from the Commissioners of Confiscated Estates to John Hardy, April 27, 1784, Liberty County Deed Book A(II), p. 54.

255. Old Liberty County Grant and Plat Book, Office of the Clerk of Superior Court, p. 164.

256. Ibid.

257. Conveyance from Lachlan McIntosh, sheriff of Liberty County, to Dr. Adam Alexander, June 1, 1791, Liberty County Deed Book C, pp. 90-91.

258. Conveyance from Adam Alexander to Alexander Irvine, in trust for the use of Alexander's daughter, Jane, the wife of Kenneth Irvine, December 23, 1809, Liberty County Deed Book G, pp. 101-2.

259. Conveyance from Mrs. Jane Irvine to the Rev. Charles O. Screven, June 17, 1816, Liberty County Deed Book H, pp. 35-36.

260. The plat of the Mullryne tract is located in Liberty County Deed Book H, p. 52; that of the Distillery in the Old Liberty County Grant and Plat Book, p. 164; and that of Kelsall's Barns in Liberty County Deed Book H, p. 36.

261. Various deeds concerning land near Sunbury provide proof that the Sunbury common extended around three sides of the town. Some of these references are: Liberty County Deed Book A(II), p. 54, which mentions the Distillery Tract (actually Kelsall's Barns) as bounding east on the Sunbury common; Liberty County Deed Book C, pp. 202-4, which mentions a tract of land north of Sunbury as bounding south on the Sunbury common: and Liberty County Deed Book D, pp. 50-51, which mentions a tract of land south of Sunbury as bounding north on the "common of Sunbury."

262. In a deed from Henry Myers to William Hammett, Liberty County Deed Book C, pp. 202-4, Myers mentions that 40 acres of land remained north of the town of Sunbury after Sunbury and the common had been laid out. The proof that 60 acres constituted the surplus land lying south of Sunbury is much more complicated. During the 1790's, the land south of Sunbury appears to have been divided into four pieces: 15 acres were bought from Henry Myers by James Holmes [Liberty County Deed Book C, pp. 219-21]; and 10 acres were bought from Myers by Lachlan McIntosh [Liberty County Deed Book DD, pp. 235-36]. Both of these tracts were sold to Jan Molich [Liberty County Deed Book DD, pp. 202-5; 236-37], who also bought 25 acres from James Powell [Liberty County Deed Book D, pp. 50-51]. A fourth tract of approximately 10 acres was owned by Henry Myers, who apparently also sold this land to Jan Molich, although the deed was never recorded.

263. Henry Myers appears to have come into possession of the entire Point and Pole Hall tracts in the early 1790's, which he then subdivided and sold in smaller sections over a period of years. However, all of the deeds were not recorded.

264. William Maxwell conveyed the Point (among other tracts) to Jones Rowe on March 10, 1851, Liberty County Deed Book N, pp. 506-7. Maxwell stated in this deed that the Point contained 30 acres, so a resurvey of the tract had undoubtedly reduced the acreage from 40 to 30.

265. See Footnote 262.

266. Support for this statement can only be found in later transactions by the heirs of the Rev. Screven. According to the will of the Rev. Screven [Liberty County Will Book B, Probate Court, p. 98], his son William, his daughter Ann Elizabeth, and his unborn child were to inherit equal portions of his massive land holdings south of Sunbury. William later sold the Pole Hall tract to his brother, indicating that his inherited portion included this property. See Footnote 267.

267. Conveyance from William E. Screven to Benjamin S. Screven, July 11, 1849, Liberty County Deed Book N, p. 194.

268. Conveyance from Jones A. Rowe to Benjamin S. Screven, December 6, 1869, Liberty County Deed Book P, p. 607.

269. Agreement made February 25, 1875, between Mrs. Rosa J. Screven, widow of William E. Screven, and his children, Liberty County Deed Book R, pp. 242-43.

270. Liberty County Deed Book AD, p. 251

271. Liberty County Deed Book AZ, pp. 65-66; Liberty County Deed Book AE, p. 280.

272. Liberty County Deed Book AN, p. 185.

273. Liberty County Deed Book AO, p. 109.

274. Conveyance from R.A. Calder to the Liberty County Commissioners of Roads and Revenues, March 9, 1945, Liberty County Deed Book AAN, p. 445. In this deed, Calder described the property as: "All of that certain tract or parcel of land situate, lying and being in the 1359th G.M. District, Liberty County, Ga., containing one hundred seventy five acres more or less and being bound as follows: on the North by lands of R.A. Calder and old Ferry Road on the East by the Sunbury river [Medway River] and Dickerson Creek, on the South by lands of J.P. Stevens and on the west northwest by the old Ferry Road and more particularly known as the Fort Morris tract the said R.A. Calder reserves the portion known as the Calder home place and having a distance of 450 feet at each end measured from the Allen A. Stevens and Calder line running parallel at which place corner posts are located indicating a division line between the lands of R.A. Calder and the lands described in this deed...." As the deed description shows, Calder did not sell the northern portion of his land to the county. The part that he retained was actually located within the southern portion of the old town of Sunbury. The "Old Ferry Road" was cut through the site of Sunbury after the town had died. It provided the county inhabitants with an easy access to the waterfront.

275. Liberty County Deed Book 111, pp. 595-96.

276. Liberty County Deed Book P, p. 606; Liberty County Deed Book N, pp. 506-7.

277. Conveyance from Jones A. Rowe to Charles Prectorius, September 1, 1777, Liberty County Deed Book R, p. 589; conveyance from Jones A. Rowe to George W. Parker, November 7, 1882, Liberty County Deed Book U, p. 356.

278. Conveyance from the estate of Charles Prectorius to Gay Green, March 11, 1920, Liberty County Deed Book AS, pp. 567-68; conveyance from Gay Green to Allen A. Stevens, November 14, 1938, Liberty County Deed Book AAF, pp. 247-48.

279. Conveyance from George W. Parker to John C. Jones, June 23, 1893, Liberty County Deed Book AA, pp. 379-80; conveyance from the heirs of John C. Jones to Allen A. Stevens, June 10, 1937, Liberty County Deed Book AAD, p. 340.

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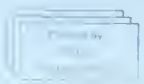

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